DELHI
THE IMPERIAL CITY

(A Guide for Tourists & Visitors)

By

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PREFACE

TO THE FIFTH EDITION

It is a matter of great pleasure that the previous four editions of this book were much appreciated by tourists and visitors from inland and overseas. The interest exhibited by them has encouraged me to reprint the book after thorough revision and additions of useful supplements.

I have kept in view the needs of visitors who will naturally like to be shown objects of interest peculiar to the place and of Delhi residents who wish to familiarise themselves with the of places their Imperial City Now, I am confident that this edition will prove of further interest

By the courtesy of the Indian State Railways, some illustrations are given in this edition as in the second edition of this book for which I am thankful Also I am grateful to other persons who have very kindly given me suggestions and photographs for the book.

R. C. Arora

New Delhi,
2nd March, 1953.

PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION

There has long been a crying need for a standard guide to the Imperial City and I have endeavoured to help my tourist friends by presenting this practical, useful and concise book.

In this book, New Delhi, Modern or present Delhi and the six older cities of Delhi with their places of interest, their convenient itinerary, distances of sites, amusements and other information have been described in such a manner as to make this book a tourists' companion and a ready reference for the residents of Delhi

I have also given a brief history of Delhi as it is essential to be acquainted with its history otherwise most of its celebrated sights and historical buildings and monuments would be unintelligible

Visitors interested in archeological research or discovery are advised to take a guide with them who can be found in every hotel.

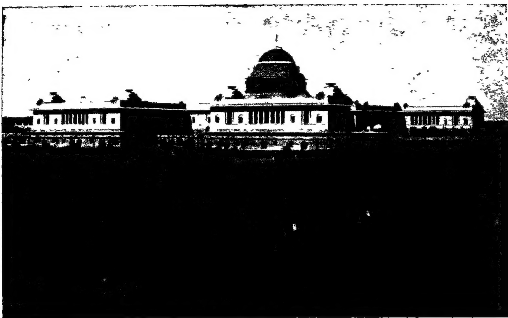
This book is sent out in the hope that it will help tourists in every possible way, and further, I shall be much obliged to readers for any suggestions for the improvement of this book.

R. C. Arora

22nd Feb, 1953,

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Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

DELHI

"THE IMPERIAL CITY"

THE Imperial City of Delhi or the Capital of the Republic of India reverberates with a glorious historical heritage and every brick smacks of some epoch making tradition. The celestial halo of the Pandavas, the chivalry of Prithvi Raj and the splendour of the Moghuls and last but not least, the wonderful achievement of the British architect in building New Delhi have written its name on an imperishable plate of brass.

Delhi, from time immemorial, has been the cradle of civilisation and chivalry and an epitome of India's history. In fact, Delhi is veritably to India what Athens had been to Greece and Rome to Italy. The

mere name of Delhi conjures up the vision of its past glory and grandeur. It has the unique honour of being the seat of the government of multifarious empires known to the world and has undergone more vicissitudes of fortune than any other city in India.

Here, kingdom after kingdom, dynasty after dynasty and tribe after tribe have all come into the lime-light, one after another; indeed, Delhi has been the arena of many passing powers and every inch of Delhi, which has an area of nearly forty-five square miles including the sites of many bygone cities and their ruins, gives rise to thrilling associations of India's past.

Delhi is held to be founded by a Hindu King, Raja Dileep who named it after him—Dillipur. But after some time it came to be known as Dilli. And during the rule of Muslims, it was called Dehli (and later on Delhi). For some time in the glorious reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan, the master-builder, the city was styled as Shahjahanabad but this title expired with the death of its designator. One of the greatest historians of India, Farishta writes in his valuable records that Delhi was founded about 430 B. C. on the pre-historic site of Indraprasth, the grand metropolis of the Pandavas, two miles off to the south-east of present Delhi. He further states that on the decay of Kanauj, Delhi became the acknowledged capital of Hindustan.

Another authority differs from him and states that it was founded in 50 B. C. on the historic spot to the north of present Delhi, where the Royal Darbar of 1911 was held.

During the early period of British supremacy in Northern India, Delhi was attached to the United Provinces but after the Mutiny of 1857 it was transferred to the province of the Punjab. On December 12th, 1911, on the occasion of the great Delhi Darbar, His Imperial Majesty King George V announced the transfer of the seat of the Government of India from Calcutta to Delhi, and, thus Delhi was restored again to its rightful heritage and became the metropolis of the whole of India. Delhi has always exercised a great hold on the imagination of the people,—whoever held Delhi had been acknowledged to be the paramount power in India

No sooner, the proclamation was issued, a site for the New Capital was chosen and the present New Delhi (Raisina) was built. Delhi with an area of surrounding territory, 557 square miles in extent, was made a separate province under the administration of a Chief Commissioner, subject to the superintendence and the control of the Governor-General in Council, now President in Council. According to the 1951 census, the population of Delhi is 1,744,072. Delhi stands on the right bank of the river Jumna and is nearly equi-distant from the principal ports of Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi. The climate of

Delhi is healthy and bracing It experiences three principal seasons—hot, wet and cold. The first commences in February, the second by the middle of June and the third from October

Here, it will interest our readers to go through Mr. Shoosmith's remarks, "No British trade settlement of recent origin can compete with a city that has ever been Imperial, a site whose earliest history is but guessed at, and whose glories are told in the ancient epics of the land. India's past undoubtedly claims that the capital should return to Delhi. But a comparison between the new city and its predecessors makes it plain that the return has not been by the old way, through warfare, treachery and murder, when the conqueror had to entrench himself behind fortress walls; but by a new way of peace. The building of New Delhi has synchronised with India's experiment in constitutional Government; its completion coincides with a conference which should inaugurate a new epoch in its history."

Delhi is a big railway junction, rail, road and air routes connecting it with major cities & towns of the country. It lies in the direct east-west trans-world air routes linking with all the big cities of the world.

There are two aerodromes, one Willingdon aerodrome in New Delhi and the other Palam aerodrome at Delhi Cantonment. Delhi has its own

University—the Delhi University. Its buildings are handsome and is situated on Alipur Road opposite old Secretariat.

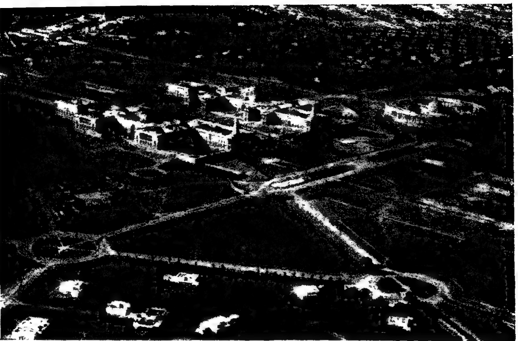
Delhi is a great commercial emporium and a hive of industry. Its famous old industries of gold and silver filigree, ivory work, wood carving and shawl weaving still flourish, and to these have been added the modern industries of cotton mills, flour mills, iron foundries, brush making, etc. The Delhi goldsmit in particular, is very skilled in engraving and setting gems, and specialises in the making of jade ornaments. He also excels in devising lovely mounts for famous miniatures.

NEW DELHI

"THE NEW CAPITAL"

SEVERAL capitals of India have been built in the neighbourhood of Delhi, but assuredly none has arisen under happier auspices or has ever been built on a better site than New Delhi, a white city built under the genius of Lutyens. It is the finest existing specimen of combined architectural styles. It is doubtful whether any architect ever had so great an opportunity before.

New Delhi, the modern Capital of the Republic of India lies to the immediate south of Delhi (Shahjahanabad). It is the work of British architects and engineers. New Delhi is a modern town built entirely in white except for Government House, the Secretariat and Legislative Rotunda built of red sandstone in Moghul style. The magnificence of its buildings, the general lay-out and the beauty of its gardens are simply charming. In fact, the



Aerial View of New Delhi.



"Mural Painting", in Secretariat (N Block), New Delhi

structures make up a self-contained group unique in magnificence and immensity of proportion. It is built two miles off the City walls of Delhi at Raisina.

The remarks of Mr. Shoosmith are worth reading, "Akbar, that great philosopher-ruler, sought the essential unity of all peoples and of all religions. This spirit is manifest in the building of his city (Fatehpur-Sikri), where Hindu and Mohammadan craftsman worked together in artistic harmony. In New Delhi an even greater thing has been accomplished, reconciliation of the West and the East. It must be of great interest to those who have even the slightest knowledge of the art of building, to recognise in New Delhi the diverse influences that have been united in the creation of the City—Roman, Italian and English; Hindu, Budhist and Mohammadan. Western art, adapting itself to meet Indian needs, has borrowed Eastern forms and combined them with its own so easily and naturally as to suggest that the ideals of east and west, though widely different, are complementary . ... Seldom since Roman times has an architect had a like opportunity to start with a clean sheet and bring into being a city conceived from the first as a unified whole. Petersburg, Washington and Canberra are probably the only parallel cases".

Many investigations were made to find a suitable site and inspite of a Selection Committee for the purpose, every effort was in vain. At last, Lord Hardinge, the

then Viceroy of India, personally rode in the trying weather and found a spot near the Tomb of Guru Tegbahadur, a Sikh martyr, quite suitable for the new capital. Seeing such a historical site, the Viceroy was much pleased. He declared, "This is the site of Government House" Consequently, the land stretching up from the Kutab Road to the Ridge was selected.

The work of construction was entrusted to two of the greatest British architects of world wide fame, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker. The building materials were collected from far and wide, red sandstone from Bharatpur, Dholpur, and other States; marble from Jodhpur, Baroda, Jaisalmer, Kotah, Jhalawar and Baisalana and so was the case with other materials In New Delhi alone, there are over 50 miles of excellent roads each named after famous persons like Asoka, Prithvi Raj, Akbar, Roberts, King Edward etc. In brief, the new capital after eighteen years of strenuous labour was finally completed at a cost of about fourteen crores of rupees and on February 11th, 1931 was formally inaugurated. A new cantonment was also built in New Delhi on the south west of Viceregal Lodge, now Rashtrapati Bhavan. It will not be devoid of interest to go through the following quotations :—

Mr. Shoosmith, an expert architect writes (*I. S Ry Mag.*), "Heir to so much, New Delhi rightly looks to the past and does it honour, treasuring a splendid inheritance.

Shrines, tombs, mosques, monuments of bygone greatness have been rescued from decay and their settings beautified. Roads and avenues bear the names of ancient kings and of others famous in Indian history. The new buildings wear the sandstone and marble garb of their predecessors, wrought faithfully to tradition... . .. ...Yet withal New Delhi is born in a modern age, a truly modern city, thrice blessed at birth. With history came forth Art and Science, bringing their gifts to its cradle. Art gave it symmetry and order, its well balanced plan, a broad body will a noble head and straight clean limbs of roads stretching across the plain, and last but not least, its magnificent buildings in a splendour of design that few cities can rival. Science brought wide spaces and regional planning, health-giving sanitation and construction that will endure"

Sir Henry Sharp, C.S.I. C.I.E., writes (*Delhi, Its Story and Buildings 1928, p. 169*), "The achievements of Sir Edward Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker and of the staff of Government Engineers headed by Sir Hugh Keeling eclipse in splendour and solidity.. ....A dignified restraint of outline, a wealth of rich detail in portico, window, balcony and cupola; the contrast of red sandstone and white marble, the stately courtyards, the soaring domes and campaniles—all these present a miraculous picture which few, if any, of the architectural works of man can rival . .. . Such is the eighth city of

Delhi surpassing its predecessors in magnificence and in the great ideals, which it symbolizes—the blending of oriental art and achievement with the sterner influences of the West".

CHAPTER III

HISTORY OF DELHI

DELHI is the greatest historical city in India. If a man were to write the story of Delhi, he would find it a hereculean task to accompolish The history described here, in a limited space, will not be more than a sketch. But I hope it will render Delhi more intelligible to those who have travelled far to see its famous sites.

THE HINDU PERIOD

The earliest accounts are supplied by the sacred literature of the Hindus, portions of which relate to a time not less than 5,000 years ago commencing from Maharaja Yudhister of the Mahabharat who ruled the whole of India from Indraprasth. His reign was over the most magnificent kingdom imaginable and it represen-

ted the Golden age, *par excellence.* Nigam Bodh ghat and Rajghat at Delhi are the only relics indentified with that time, (Here is cremeted Mahatma Gandhi, the Great National Hero of India).

During the vast spread of time, right from the Mahabharat (about 3,000 B. C.) down to the present day, successive hordes of conquerors from the Northwest,—the Groeco-Bacterians, the Kushans, the Scythians, the Turks, the Pathans and the Moghuls have made their way to Delhi before the advent of the British The historical records before the Turks came to India (12th century) are extremely poor with some glimpses of foreign invasions and visits of travellers. The conquest of the Persian King, Darius in the sixth century B. C. and that of Alexander the Great in 327 B C. were without any tangible success The visit of Magesthnese, the Greek ambassador, Fa-Hieun and Hieun Tsang the Chinese travellers had left some landmarks of the glorious Hindu period.

Magesthnese who lived at Chandra Gupta's Court in the fourth century B. C. remarked that all the Indians were free and none of them was a slave, they lived frugally and observed very good order, theft was a very rare occurrence; they had no suits about pledges and so forth In the 3rd century B. C., noble Maharaja Asoka, 'Beloved of Gods' ruled Indraprasth. So great did his power become that his suzerainty was acknowledged

from Bacteria in the North to the Krishna river in the South. Buddhism prospered in his reign and its doctrines were proclaimed far and wide. He erected a series of pillars from Orissa to Kabul inscribed with his famous fourteen edicts. His Empire of Magadh had intercourse with distant countries of Epirus, Macedon, Egypt, Ptolemy and Bacteria. About the year 125 A. D. Maharaja Kanishk (the Kushan) was the next King of importance who ruled up to Yarkand, Tibet and Afghanistan.

Fa-Hieun visited India in the early part of the fifth century A. D during the reign of Chandra Gupta II and remarked, "Throughout the country, no man kills any living thing, nor drinks wine nor eats onions or garlics. In this country, they do not keep pigs or fowls, there are no dealings in cattle, no butcher's shops or distilleries in their market places."

Harsha, another great monarch, ascended to the throne in 607 A. D. and ruled over Northern India up to Nepal. Hieun-Tsang wrote about the time that the people were noble and gracious in appearance, and famed for their learning and piety. Buddhism also prospered in his kingdom.

Anangpal I rebuilt Delhi during his reign (663-681) and repeopled it from Kanauj. Of his glorious days Anangpal Road at Delhi is a poor but noble memorial. Later, Anangpal II entirely shifted his capital from Kanauj

to Delhi about 1052 and restored the historic town to its former glory. He built Lal Kot at Delhi. The only memorial of his glorious days is the inscription on the Iron Pillar at Delhi. Maharaja Prithvi Raj was the last Hindu monarch, a personification of all Rajput manhood and chivalry (1163-93 A.D.). His principal memorial is the Prithvi Lat which was styled Kutab Minar by Kutab-ud-Din.

A few quotations of the most reputed scholars of the day about Ancient India will be interesting. Mr. Rhys Davids remarks "There was security, there was independence, there were no landlords and no paupers and there was little, if any, crime. Sir Monier Williams remarks, "They had a polished language, a cultured literature and abstruse philosophy, centuries before the English even existed in name. They were so far advanced in religion, metaphysics, philosophy, science, art and music, that no other nation could stand as a rival or compete with them in any of these branches of knowledge."

Mr. Thorton observes, "Ere yet, the pyramids looked down on the Valley of the Nile,—when Greece and Italy, those cradles of European civilisation, nursed only tenants of a wilderness,—India was the seat of wealth and splendour. A busy population had covered the land with the marks of its industry, rich crops of the most coveted productions of nature annually rewarded the toil

of husbandmen, skilful artisans converted the rude produce of the soil into the fabrics of unrivalled delicacy and beauty and architects and sculptors, joined in constructing works, the solidity of which has not, in some instances, been overcome by the evolution of thousands of years."

The defeat of Prithvi Raj by Mohd. Ghori sounded the death-knell of the Hindu supremacy over Delhi. Nevertheless, his fame survives as well as that of his beautiful and high spirited wife, Sanjucta, in the songs of the bards and in numerous popular legends. Above all, their romantic love story and its tragic sequel, involving as it did the fate of nations, are famous themes throughout India immortalized by the inspiring songs, of 'Chand Bardai.'

THE MOHAMMADAN PERIOD

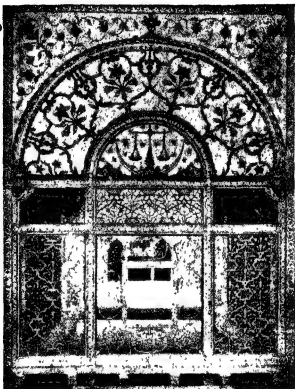
In fact, the authentic history of India begins with the Mohammadan conquest. The subsequent dynasties, the Turks, the Khiljis, the Tughlaks, the Sayyids, the Lodis, the Suris, and the Moghuls were all Mohammadans.

Mohammad, son of Qasim, organised the expedition against Dahir of Sind in 712. Sabuktgin, King of Ghazni descended upon Atangpal about 979—the first Mohammadan invasion in the strict sense. Mahmud of Ghazni defeated Jaipal in 1001. They all plundered the country

and returned with enormous booty but did not establish any rule of their own. It was Mohammad Ghori, who established the Mohammedan rule over Delhi after several attempts by defeating Prithvi Raj in 1192. It is said that Jaichand, a Rathor Rajput of Kanauj being insulted by his daughter's marriage with Pirthvi Raj treacherously called upon Mohammad Ghori to attack the latter, and this proved the cause of Ghori's success in India.

With Mohammad Ghori originated the Turk dynasty. As he left no son his Commander-in-Chief, Kutb-ud-Din Aibak styled himself as the Emperor in 1205. He was a staunch Muslim ruler. He converted temples into mosques, old Gods were broken and their worshippers slain and the Muslim religion was forcibly enforced. His so-called Kutab Minar stands to day. Of Kutb-ud-Din's otherwise Slave dynasty, Empress Razyah is worthy of mention. She was the only Queen who ever ruled over Delhi. She had read the Quran; she used to ride on elephants and attend to public functions with her face uncovered. Her tomb stands near the Turkman Gate, Delhi. Balban, the last ruler of the line, had no son and after his death Jalal-ud-Din Khilji assumed imperial power.

The Khiljis—Jalal-ud-Din succeeded to the throne in 1200. With him originated the Pathan House of Khilji dynasty. Moghul raids were repeatedly made in his reign. Five years later, his nephew, Ala-ud-Din murdered him and succeeded to the throne. He was a Muslim bigot and



Marble Screen, Fort, Delhi



The Delhi Durbar Coronation of His Majesty King George V.

set to work to demolish Hindu, Buddhist and Jain shrines and used their materials in the construction of Alai-Darwaza (still existing and worth seeing), the fort of Siri and the unfinished Kutab-Minar. He expired in 1315. Four rulers succeeded to the throne in quick succession but all were brutally murdered.

The Tughlaks—During the chaotic conditions and weak rule after Ala-ud-Din, the Hindus retook their ancient metropolis. But after six months, Ghias-ud-Din Mohammad Tuglak restored the Muslim rule in 1320. With him originated the Tughlak line. He built Tughlakabad. Five years later, his son, Mohammad Tughlak murdered him, and succeeded to the throne. This king had a curious mixture of good and bad qualities as he was capable and intelligent on the one hand and recklessly cruel and bad tempered on the other. He is known as the 'Bloody King'. His reign brought untold miseries upon his subjects, for instance, the population of Delhi was compelled to move to his proclaimed capital Daulatabad near Elora at all costs and after some time he again shifted it to Delhi.

The next successor Firoz Shah was mild and differed from his predecessor as day from night. During his reign (1351-1388), he erected Firozabad which extended from the Ridge to Humayun's Tomb. Soon after his death,

domestic quarrels arose among his sons for the throne and weak kings ruled till 1414 when the dynasty was totally dismembered. During such vicissitudes, the dreaded Tamerlane of Turkistan fell upon the doomed capital on December 24, 1391, made a public massacre, slayed and burnt the Hindus of Delhi making it a smouldering ruin,

The Sayyids—After the Tughlaks, the Sayyids succeeded to the throne of Delhi in 1414 and of their line four kings ruled successively till 1451. Neither were they of any importance, nor did they leave any architectural record worthy of mention

Lodis—Bahlol Lodi established the line of Lodis in 1451 In his reign, Delhi was brought much to its former grandeur and glory. His successor Sikander Lodi (1488-1517) was a religious bigot—the Hindus had no freedom in his reign. The third and the last king Ibrahim II was defeated by the Moghuls by Babar at Panipat in 1526—an epoch and a turning point from which the Moghul supremacy commenced in India.

It is remarkable to note that the decorative Pathan style of architecture originated with the Lodis.

THE MOGHULS

Mohammad Zahir-ud-Din, better known by his sobriquet of Babar the Tiger, being driven from his

heritage, became by his prowess, the king of Afghanistan and Badakhshan in 1505. He advanced towards India at the age of forty-three with a small well-disciplined army not less than five times and on the last occasion, being assisted by the Afghan Governor of Lahore defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the battle of Panipat in 1526 and hastened to Agra where he proclaimed himself the Emperor of India. Three years later on his death, his son, Humayun, succeeded to the throne at the age of nineteen in 1530. During his reign, Sher Shah his most powerful rival in Bihar marched against him and after a prolong struggle, Humayun was compelled to fly for his life During his escape across the Sindh desert, his famous son Akbar was born on October 15th, 1542 in the little fortress of Umarkot. He sought the protection of the king of Persia, Thamasp where he lived for 4 years and later on for nine years he waited at Kabul, till he recovered his lost kingdom.

THE SURIS (1539-1554)

Sher Shah Suri was a remarkably adventurous man. He defeated Humayun and ruled Northern India from Delhi with his citadel at Shergarh otherwise known as Purana Kila. He was the ablest ruler India has ever known. He reconstructed the government and introduced the revenue system which was so good that it was adopted by Akbar. He also outlined the policy of

universal tolerance in matters of religion. After six years of wise administration, he met his end by a powder explosion at the siege of Kalinagar. After his death, conditions became bad and his empire fell to pieces. This at last gave the exiled emperor Humayun his chance to regain the lost throne.

THE MOGHULS AGAIN

Humayun rode down from Kabul and reconquered his lost kingdom in the early autumn of 1555 but did not enjoy it for long as he died in 1556 on account of fatal wound received in falling down the stairs of his library. His magnificent tomb still stands at Delhi.

Akbar succeeded him in 1556. He, too, encouraged tolerance in matters of religion, established Sher Shah's revenue system, abolished Suttee (widow burning) and took off the Jazia (Tax) which was imposed upon those who did not embrace Islam He established a consolidated and a powerful empire. He, too, was a great lover of fine building and a liberal patron of artists.

Jehangir, the son of Akbar, was born of a Hindu princess and succeeded to the throne in 1605. After his marriage with beautiful Nurjahan (the Light of the World) Jehangir neglected his State affairs and it was the Empress who actually ruled. During her reign, the government

became corrupt and many abuses were rampant. Sir Thomas Roe, the first English ambassador visited Jehangir's court during this period.

Shahjahan, formerly Sultan Khurrum on succeeding to the throne after his father's death in 1628, removed all abuses. His subjects were quite happy. History knows him best as an unrivalled builder. The Fort, Jama Masjid and the present Delhi were built by him. He was seized by a sudden illness in 1658 and immediately after a quarrel arose among his four sons for the throne. Aurangzeb, the youngest with the help of his sister who used to disclose court secrets to him, succeeded to the throne. He imprisoned his father at Agra where he died in 1666.

Aurangzeb proclaimed himself as the Emperor of India in 1658. He was an orthodox Muslim. He converted numerous temples into mosques and reimposed the Jizia (Tax). The Maratnas under Shivaji rose in the Deccan (South India) in his reign. His long reign of 50 years passed mainly in fruitless Deccan warfare. He died in 1700. After him, several kings ruled over Delhi but none had power to control the vast empire. In such vicissitudes India was invaded by Nadir Shah from the North West in 1739. He massacred and plundered Delhi and returned with enormous wealth together with the world famous Peacock Throne which was the symbol of the glory of the Moghul Sovereigns.

BATTLE OF PANIPAT

By 1759, matters in India had reached a crisis. The Maratha Confederacy had become paramount from Berar and Mysore to the Ganges river. Haider Ali in the Deccan and Nawab-Wazir of Oudh in Northern India were also powerful kings Delhi was without a king as Alamgir II was murdered and his son was in hiding.

Finding such a golden opportunity, the Marathas headed by Sada Sheo Rao better known as Bhao, seized Delhi and looted the palace Meanwhile, another power under Ahmad Shah Abdalee rose in the North-West. Ahmad Shah marched to Delhi in 1761 and though the Marahattas put up a stout and determined front they were defeated in the battle of Panipat. Ahmad Shah did not establish any rule of his own like his predecessors, but having got Shah Alam, the Moghul king, seated on the throne he returned to his home with an enormous booty. As a result, Shah Alam's hold relaxed and the Punjab seceded from him The Moghuls continued the rule of Delhi till the mutiny of 1857 when the Moghul line finally collapsed.

THE BRITISH

Sir Thomas Roe was the first English ambassador to the court of Jehangir and was permitted to open a factory at Surat. The East India Company came to Madras in the reign of Shahjahan and built the Fort St. George

there, Later in 1690, Fort William was built at Calcutta. It is worthy of mention that Clive was the real founder of the British Empire in India (1744-1767); for he had not only started it by his brilliant achievements on the field of battle, but had also firmly secured it to his country by his wise and statesman-like conduct of affairs. In fact, his victory of Plassey in 1757 founded the British power in Northern India.

Warren Hastings (1772-86) steered the ship of British Empire safely through a time of unexampled storm and stress. He planned a system of administration which, in the main, is still in force and he reduced the chaotic rule of the Company to an ordered and settled form of government. Further, Marquis Wellessley's work is memorable. He put an end to the aggressive Mohammedan kingdom in the South, crippled the Maratha power, rooted out the antagonistic French influence and added a large amount of territory to the Company's dominions. During his time, Lake's victory of 1803 at Agra, Aligarh and Delhi enhanced the British power and prestige in India. His wise policy is an enduring monument to his statesmanship and sagacity (1798-1105) Lord Moria otherwise Marquis Hastings (1813-23) was a man distinguished both as a statesman and a soldier, He may be said to have completed the work begun by Clive and to have accomplished the making of the Indian Empire.

The next personality of importance was Lord Dalhousie (1841-56). In fact, with him great work of empire building begun by Clive came to a successful termination. Last but not least the suppression of the Indian Mutiny of 1857 made the British the Paramount Power in India.

The Indian Mutiny was the most appalling crisis that it has been the lot of any ruler of British India to confront. The main causes of the outbreak, as narrated in the Indian History, were that the sepoys were told by the agitators that cartridges supplied to them were greased with the fat of cows and pigs and the British had a plot to enforce Christian faith on them Religious devotees who saw their influence waning with the spread of Western ideas and education, eagerly joined in inciting the sepoys to rebellion These stories gained currency and spread like wild-fire. The emissaries of dethroned princes or of their dispossessed heirs and widows encouraged the agitation. Particularly, Lakshmi Bai, the widow of the last Raja of Jhansi and Dhundhu Pant, better known as Nana Saheb and sons of Bahadur Shah, the pensioned old king, played great role in the Mutiny. The Mohamadans found this time a good opportunity to establish Mohammadan rule over Northern India. The Mutiny centred round three points, Delhi, Lucknow and Cawnpur After the fall of Delhi the affairs at other places were controlled.

The native troops of Meerut were first to break out on Sunday night of the 10th May, 1857. They killed their officers, defenceless Euorpeans, plundered houses having set fire to the station reached Delhi the next morning where similar scenes were enacted. Mr. Frasher the Commissioner, Mr. Huchinson, the Collector, Captain Douglas, the comandant of the palace guards, the Rev. Jennings, the Presidency Chaplain were killed Sir Theo Metcalfe, the magistrate narrowly escaped. The British troops in cantonments consisted of three regiments of native infantry and a battery of artillery. These joined the mutineers after killing their officers. The Delhi magazine, then the largest ih North-West India were in charge of Lt Willoughby. The mutineers attacked it. This was finally blown up when its defence was seen practically difficult Lt. Willoughby escaped but was murdered in a village. Amid this turmoil Bahadur Shah was proclaimed Emperor of Hindustan and his sons held prominent positions in the military. The seizure of the Moghul *capital by the rebels was a prelude in* the general revolt in Northern India. The mutineers held the Metcalfe House on Alipore Road with great advantage against the British besieging forces until they were ousted.

Sir John Lawrence disarmed the Bengal troops. The officers found in inciting sepoys to rebellion were then and there hung. But the Punjab, instead of being a

source of danger proved a source of strength and help. A British force was mobilised at Ambala. It reached Delhi on the 8th of June, Sir H. Barnard, successor to General Anson routed the Mutineers and encamped on the Ridge. The force consisted barely 3000 men and were inadequate for a siege as the rebels troops numbered over 30,000 But on the 14th August reinforcements arrived from the Punjab under the dashing and determined soldier, Brigadier Nicholson. The points of attack were the Kashmir bastions the Water bastions, the Kashmir Gate and the Lahore Gate. The Hindu Rao's House (now a hospital in saddar) was the key of the British position during the mutiny and the scene of the fiercest fighting Early in September siege guns arrived on 13th, a breach was effected by the guns and next day assault was delivered. The British entered within the walls of the city before nightfall but loss was heavy and worst of all, the brave Nicholson had fallen mortally wounded at the head of the storming party. His death was a loss to the Empire He lived, however, to learn that the whole city had been re-captured and died on 23rd September The rebels were driven out and Delhi was won Bahadur Shah with his family took refuge at Humayun's tomb On receiving a promise that his life would be spared the last Mohammadan king surrendered to Major Hodson, But his sons and grandson, the ring leaders of the rebellion were shot then and there by Major Hodson himself and Bahadur Shah was banished

to Rangoon. Hindus were soon afterwards readmitted, but for some time the Mohemadans were rigorously excluded.

During the siege the British forces sustained a loss of 1012 officers and men killed and 3837 wounded. The shattered walls of the Kashmir Gateway and bastions of the Northern faces of the city still bear the marks of the cannonade of September, 1857. After the fall of Delhi, other places were gradually brought under control. Truly speaking the suppression of the Indian Mutiny made the British the Paramount Power in India.

Other memorable events in the Indian history are Lord Lytton's Durbar of 1877, Lord Curzon's Durbar of 1903 and the Delhi Royal Durbar of His Majesty King George V which restored Delhi to its ancient glory and prestige as the Capital of India Above all, the 15th August, 1947, was the **greatest** hour; at O hour when the new era of Indian Independence dawned and the Power was transferred from the British to the National Government The last English and the first Governor-General of Free India was Lord Mountbatten and the first and last Governor-General of Free India was Shri C Rajgopalacharya.

SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Indian Republic took its birth on 26th January, 1950. India is now a Republic with an elected President and based on Parliamentary system of Government. Its first President is Shri Rajendra Prasad.

CHAPTER IV

PLACES OF INTEREST

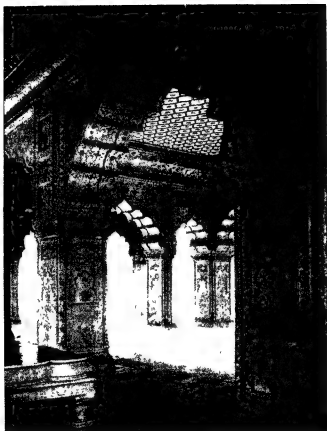
THE FORT

THE massive fort is situated on the right bank of the river Jumna on the eastern side of the city of Delhi not very far from Chandni Chowk. It is a huge red sand-stone building, its walls are mighty, surmounted here and there by fine towers with chochetons. The walls on the river side are 60 feet high but they increase to a height of 100 feet on the landside where further protection is afforded by a moat 75 feet deep.

The fort is 3,200 feet in length from north to south and 1,800 feet in width from east to west in shape, the fort is an irregular octagon with a circumference of a



Rang Mahal, Fort, Delhi.



Diwan i Khas, Fort, Delhi

mile and a half and having two long sides on the east and west and six short ones to north and south.

The fort was built by the famous Moghul Emperor Shahjahan and its construction was finished in ten years at an estimated cost of one crore of rupees. The fort was formerly the palace of Shahjahan and possessed great splendour and grandeur in his days. Bernier, Manucci, Fergusson and others had written sufficient on the excellence of the fort. According to Fergusson, 'this was the most magnificient palace in the East perhaps in the world'. But since the splendid day of Shahjahan, the fort, like other things underwent many vicissitudes ; in 1715 it was greatly damaged by earthquake shocks : in 1739 the Persian invader Nadir Shah carried off much of the palace treasure and precious decorations together with the world renowned famous peacock throne, in 1759 serious havoc was wrought by Maratha assaults; in 1798 it was invaded by the Rohillas and finally, after the Mutiny of 1857, minor courts, connecting corridors, several buildings and gardens were demolished and barracks built instead.

The fort though greatly reduced in size and splendour since the days of the Mutiny is worth a careful visit as it still possesses some interesting buildings—such as Diwan-i-Khas, Moti Masjid, Private Apartments, Hammam, Rangmahal and Burj.

There are two principal gates to the fort—the Lahore Gate to the west facing Chandni Chowk and the Delhi Gate to the south. The former has an archway forty feet in length and twenty four feet in width and is flanked by towers crowned by Pavilions; the latter is similar in construction to the former except for a stone elephant on the either side of the entrance set up by Lord Curzon to replace the originals destroyed by Aurangzeb. Besides the above two gates, there are three more of minor importance and particular interest attaches to one of these (the one leading to Salimgarh through which His Majesty King George V passed when on his way to the Imperial Durbar of 1911).

Near the inner side of the Lahore Gate is the roofed arcade or arched vestibule. This is the famous Chhatta Chowk or Covered Mart which was once the centre of the richest wares in the East. A little further stands the Naubatkhana or Imperial drum-house where an orchestra played with great pomp and splendour Beyond this place, no one except the Emperor and princes of the blood were allowed to proceed mounted.

This fort, during the reign of Shahjahan and that of Aurangzeb was known as Kila-i-Shahjahanabad and Kila-i-Mubarak (fortunate citadel), respectively, under Bahadur Shah, the last moghul Emperor, it was called Kila-i-Maula (exalted fortress) but today it is styled Lal Kila (Red Fort) or Fort.

Diwan-i-Am,—Diwan-i-Am stands near Naubat-khana. It literally means the Hall of Public Audience or the Durbar Hall. It originally formed the main building of the palace being 500 feet long and 300 feet wide. It consists of a large hall supported by red sand-stone pillars and enclosed by arcaded cloisters brilliantly gilt and decorated with brightly painted shell-plaster.

Facing the hall, a few feet above floor level the main wall opens to display a white marble recess 90 ft. wide, protected by an elaborately carved marble balustrade, this was known as Nasheman-i-zill-Illahi or the seat of the shadow of God but more commonly known as Jharokha. Here the great Moghul sat daily for a couple of hours in the Durbar hall, heard the humblest of his subjects and personally dispensed justice to all, Below the throne is marble dias where the Moghul ministers used to sit,

Diwan-i-Khas,—The Diwan-i-Khas or the Hall of Special Audience adjacent to the Khas-Mahal is a magnificient pavilion of white marble standing on a raised platform Its flat roof is supported by engrailed arches and the central apartment by thirty-two richly carved pillars inlaid with precious gems. On the cornices at either end an inscription is engraved in Persian which when translated means, "If Paradise be on Earth, it is this, it is this, it is this". One of the chief glories of the

chamber was its well-adorned ceiling richly overlaid with gold and almost entirely covered by raised gold and silver foliage This was visited by Tavernier, the French traveller who estimated them worth twenty-seven million francs Lt Col. Forrest visiting the palace in 1820 remarked, "in the centre was the throne on which the Emperor sat and near it was a block of purest crystal, 4 feet long, and 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep, the most beautiful stone ever seen"

It was here that the celebrated Peacock Throne of the world-wide fame was placed. According ,to *Badshahnama*, this throne was prepared by Shahjahan. It took over seven years to complete and cost a very handsome amount. A little account of the throne will interest our readers. It was called the Peacock Throne from its having the figures of two peacocks of solid gold so blended with sapphires, rubies, emeralds, pearls and other priceless stones of appropriate colours that they almost correctly depicted living birds. The throne itself was 6 feet long and 4 feet wide; it stood on six massive feet made of solid gold ,inlaid with diamonds, emeralds and rubies. It was surmounted by a canopy of gold supported by twelve emerald pillars and a fringe of pearls ornamented the borders. Further wonders were a tree of jewels and a parrot carved out of a single emerald. Its estimated value was six and a half million

pound sterling having jewels worth not less than eighty lakhs of rupees with one ruby alone worth a lakh of rupees. This magnificent throne was carried off to Persia by Nadir Shah as loot during his invasion of India on 9th February 1739 and was last heard of in Tehran where presumably most of it was melted down. The wonderful ceiling of the audience chamber was looted by the Marathas in 1760 and melted down.

It was to Diwan-i-Khas that the Emperor Shahjahan used to retire after his mid-day Durbar to discuss confidential affairs with a privileged few. Here, too, he held his court every evening. Fergusson remarked "It is, if not the most beautiful, certainly the most highly ornamented of all Shahjahan's buildings." The interior decoration of the Diwan-i-Khas with its past glories must have been one of the world's greatest wonders. Though much has long since departed, still the exquisite pavilion standing to this day is a miracle of mosaic carving and delicate tracery.

Moti Masjid—Almost adjoining the Diwan-i-Khas is the exquisite Moti Masjid or the Pearl Mosque. It was built by Aurangzeb, the successor to Shahjahan, in 1657 and was his private house of worship. The mosque is extremely beautiful, built of white marble and standing with a courtyard enclosed by red sand-stone walls. The

mosque is 40 feet by 30 feet and stands on a plinth 3½ feet in height Entrance to it is made through small brass gates of handsome design. The original domes were of heavily gilt copper which were destroyed by gun-shots during the Mutiny. Formerly, the interior of the mosque was highly decorted but now, like the fate of other buildings, most of its glories have departed, but still the mosque stands with its symmetrical domes of pure white, a gem of architecture

Khas-Mahal.—Close to the Diwan-i-Khas is Khas-Mahal, the Emperor's Private Apartments. These consist of the Tashbih Khana (the house for worship by the telling of beads), the Khwabgah (sleeping room) and the Baithak (place of social intercourse or wardrobe).

The Khwabgah as the name implies was the sleeping place of the Emperor and consisted of a suite of three rooms, the walls being inlaid with precious stones and further ornamented by beautifully carved screens and inscriptions. Count Von Orlich who visited the Imperial bed-room in 1843 greatly admited the excellence of this place. According to the admirable suggestion of Mr. W. H Hailey, once the Commissioner of Delhi, two rooms af the Emperor's private apartments have been re-furnished in Moghul style exactly as they must have been in olden days. The Baithak also called Tosh Khana

and the Tashbih Khana were also adorned with the most beautiful of carved marble work richly inlaid with precious stones. Near the Khwabgah is a most beautiful marble screen inscribed with the 'Scale of Justice' at the top.

Other Fort Buildings. Other objects of interest in the fort are the Saman Burj, the Rang Mahal and 'Hammam'. The Saman Burj is a projecting marble pavilion overlooking the river-bank below the eastern wall of the Khawbgah. Formerly, it was styled as Burj-Tila or Golden Tower from the fact that its cupola was sheeted with heavily gilt copper. In Moghul times, it was here that the Emperor came at dawn to salute the rising Sun and in turn receive the salutation of his subjects.

On the eastern side of the Diwan-i Khas is Rang Mahal (the Palace of Colours) named after the brilliance of colours with which it was formerly adorned. This building measuring 153 feet by 69 feet was once sacred to the imperial seraglio. It is mainly composed of white marble, although the outward appearance of the structure is somewhat sombre in character, the interior is conspicuous with its five marble dadoes and gilded ceilings and summits of arches. In the gorgeous day of Shahjahan, the ceiling was of silver overlaid with flowers

in gold and the Rang Mahal was styled Imtiyaz Mahal or palace of distinction. But under Furrukhsiyar gold and silver were stripped and melted down. The superably carved screens of the great windows in the eastern wall of the Rang Mahal over-looking the river are its special features. It was from here that the Princesses and Begums and Ladies of the court watched the elephant fights and wild beast shows in the arena below. Near the Rang Mahal lies a lotus fountain. Also, there is a site underneath the Rang Mahal which is held to be the tunnels which lead to Agra and Lahore

On the eastern side of the Moti Masjid and not far from Diwan-i-Khas is the Hammam or Turkish baths. These are three main apartments together with two small rooms at either side which are said to have been baths for the Imperial children All are beautifully lined with marble inlaid with precious stones. The first room was a dressing room, second was a central basin for hot or cold water and the third was exclusively devoted to hot baths. The heating apparatus is built into the west wall In the Hammam, the lotus fountain bath is of interest.

Besides the above, there are some more buildings worthy of mention The " Sawan " is a water pavilion (named after the first month of the rainy season

corresponding to July and August). In the niches around the tank and behind the cascade lighted tapers were set in the night and flowers in vases by day. It was very pleasant to witness the fall of the water in the niches. Another water pavilion is "Bhadaun" (named after the second month of the rainy season, corresponding to August and September) Between the two lies the Jal Mahal—a beautiful building in the centre of a tank. Opposite to it and adjoining Hammam is a small structure—the Barah-Dari otherwise Hira Mahal where the Emperor used to enjoy the river scene. Next is Shah's Burj or King's Tower. All these sites are situated in the Hiyat Buksh garden.

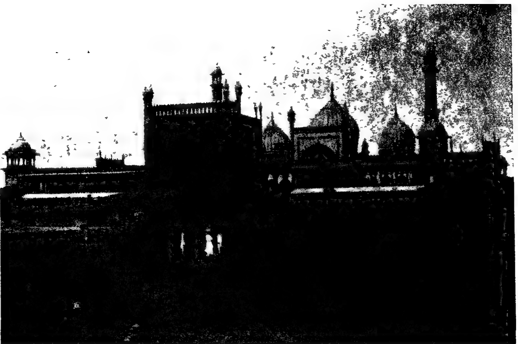
Fort Museums—There are two museums in the fort, the Indian War Memorial and the Delhi Museum. The former lies just above the Naubatkhana Gate and is approached by a flight of a few steps. Here, arms and ammunition, pictures and photos, stamps, curios and many other things are exhibited. The latter stands about 30 yards from Rang Mahal. It was formerly Mumtaz Mahal, one of the best portions of the palace connected with other buildings by means of arcades. Since the Moghul days, it had been used as a military prison and sergeants' mess but now it is used as a museum where specimens of old manuscripts, dresses, pictures, swords and archeological monuments etc. are exhibited.

The visitors are suggested to visit the Fort buildings in the following consecutive order : the Indian War Memorial Museum, Diwan-i-Am, Delhi museum, Rang Mahal, Khas Mahal, Diwan-i-Khas, Hammam, Moti Masjid, Hira Mahal, Shah Burj or King's Tower, Sawan, Jal Mahal and Bhadaun

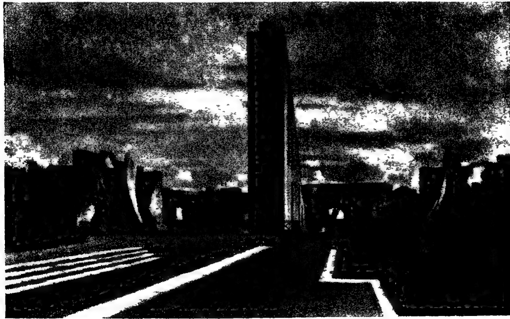
JAMA MASJID

Is sitauted about a quarter mile from the fort on a rocky eminence, called Jujal-Pahar It is held to be the largest mosque in the world and is rivalled only by that at Fatehpur Sikri. It is built of red sandstone, similar to the Fort, in structure. It is 200 feet in length and 120 feet in width and the centre portion of the dome is 201 feet in height and is flanked by two Minars, 130 feet high built in alternate vertical stripes of red sandstone and white marble and each minar possessing 130 steps. From here the view of a wide expanse of the country dotted here and there with trees and beautiful dwellings is available.

There are three gateways in the mosque, the east gateway being the largest. Each gateway is made accessible by long wide flights of stone steps, 39 steps facing the north gateway, 35 facing the east gateway and 33 facing the south gateway.



Jama Masjid, Delhi.



Jantar Mantar, New Delhi.

It was built by the master builder, Shah ahan at a cost of ten crores of rupees. The construction work was begun in 1644 and for five years no less than 5,000 masons were daily employed in it It was finally completed by Aurangzeb in 1658 It was repaired in 1817, 1851 and 1900.

The building possesses an imposing effect and here Sir Henry Sharp's remarks will interest our readers. "But (the architect has in truth produced a harmonious whole out of square, uncompromising exterior, relieved by its generous breadth, and the fairy-like effects which blossom above it. Whether the eye concentrates on the massive outlines and proportion of the exterior, the great court, 400 feet each way, or on the western face with its white marble panelling, its domes and its minarets, or whether it takes the general effect made up by these features, this mosque stands out as a great epitome of Indo-Saracenic art, its design lavish, well proportioned and imperial in its dimensions, its features blending Islamic severity with a magical delicacy of grace".

When the Moghul court was in residence at Delhi, it was the custom of the Moghul Emperors to attend this mosque in state every Friday morning. The Emperors commemorated the sacrifice of Abraham by slaughtering

a camel on the occasion of the Id festival. On the principal days of worship, the mosque becomes a congregation of immense multitudes of mohammedans bowing and prostrating themselves in the main courtyard and in the great open space in front of the Masjid—all make a sight which once seen can never be forgotten.

At the northern view of Jama Masjid is "The Ivory Palace". Its ivory carving factory and several specified cottage industries should in no way be missed to be glanced.

JANTAR MANTAR

It is an observatory consisting of a group of four curiously shaped instruments suggestive of the figures of a puzzle. The masonry instruments, namely a large gnomon with two quadrants to form an equinoctial sundial, two circular buildings for observations of altitudes and azimuth and the fourth a curious mixed instruments for measuring the sun's declination, are exhibited as to prove considerable astronomical skill, although the original design has never been completed. In evidence of this, the great equatorial dial still stands with its unusual dimensions, the hypotenuse 118 feet 7 inches, base 104 feet 1 inch and perpendicular 56 feet 9 inches. It stands near Connaught Place on Jantar Manter Road.

This observatory was built by the best astronomer of the time, Maharaja Jai Singh II of Amber, the founder of the famous city of Jaipur in compliance with the request of the Emperor Mohammad Shah about 1724. complete and large observatory exists within the precincts of the palace at Jaipur. And similar observatories were erected by the said Maharaja at Ujjain and Benares The Benares observatory is in a good state of preservation

Regarding the Maharaja and the observatories built by him, Mr. Todd remarks that they were monuments that irradiate a dark period of Indian History . ..... and science expired with him on his funeral pyre".

The Delhi Jantar Mantar suffered some damage during the several invasions on India but was recently restored by the Maharaja of Jaipur in honour of his Majesty's visit to Delhi in 1911

RASHTRAPATI BHAWAN

(President's House)

Right in the centre of New Delhi, the Imperial Capital, stands Rashtrapati Bhawan, one of the most beautiful places in the world. Its noble design, its magnificent interior decorations, its great central hall, its majestic

columns, its beautiful marble state apartments and corridors, its beautiful garden laid out in the typical Mughal style; its series of pools, pathways and water courses, its splashing fountains arrangement of flower beds, lawns and terraces make the whole an admirable feature of Modern Engineering, being the gift of the world famous architects, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker.

The chief material used in the building is red and white sand-stone and many varieties of marble. The building estate occupies an area of 330 acres including 12 acres of gardens and it is provided with an unique installation costing ten lakhs of rupees a complete telephone system, 14 lifts, 37 fountains, 35 loggies, 227 columns, 340 rooms and one and a half mile corridors with an upto date kitchen and refrigerating plant. The main building alone costs about a crore and a quarter rupees. The furniture used in the building are all excellent being made to Sir Edwin Lutyen's design. In front of the house is a beautifully laid out garden and spacious lawn with splashing fountains and glorious flower-beds.

At night under the brilliance of electric lights, the reflection of multi-coloured marble is gorgeous to behold. From the time of His Majesty's declaration, this was

not ready until 1929 when Lord and Lady Irwin the then Viceroy of India, occupied it for the first time on the 23rd December. This place is 2 miles from present Delhi Facing the Rashtrapati Bhawan stands the War-Memorial which enhances the general effect of the surroundings.

NATIONAL MUSEUM

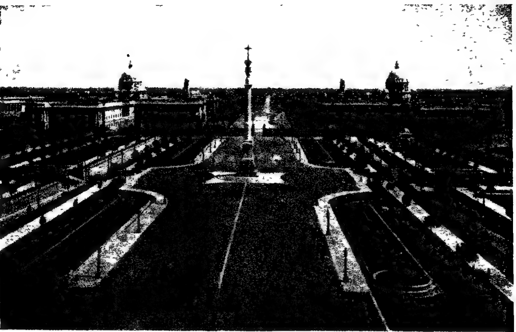
This National Museum of India occupies the front portion of the Rashtrapati Bhawan (Govt. House) in New Delhi. Undoubtedly a display of Indian Art has never before been brought together under single roof ranging from the Indus Valley Civilisation, the 3rd millennium B. C. down to sculptures & bronzes, the late medieval period and Mughal, Rajasthan & Pahari Paintings of the later centuries Here are kept the selected specimens of Indian Art which were displayed in an Exhibition at Burlington House, London (Nov 29, 1947 to Feb 29, 1948). The then Governor-General, Shri C. Rajagopalacharya graciously gave these rooms in the Government House for this museum.

War Memorial (India Gate) This is modelled after the famous Menin Gate of Ypres (Belgium). This arch, popularly known as India Gate, was built in the honour of Indian servicemen who died in World War I.

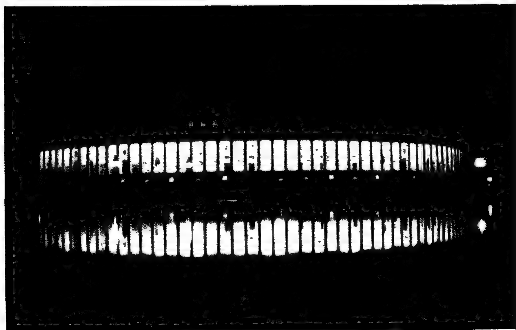
THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat adjoining the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi is next in excellence to the the palatial building of the Rashtrapati Bhawan and possibly the the greatest State Office building in the world. Its graceful columns, the purest marble screens, high arched portals; richly carved porticos, windows and balconies, stately courtyards, its imposing interior and splendid exterior decorations make the whole an admirable feature of modern engineeing skill.

The foundation stone was laid by His Majesty King George V in 1911. The building was designed by Sir Herbert Baker and was cempleted in 1929-30 at a cost of one and three quarter crore of rupees The Secretariat consists of two main blocks, the North and the South Each block is surmounted by a dome, 217 feet high (only 21 feet lower than Kutab Minar) The whole uilding contains not less than one thousand rooms and approximately eight mi e s of corridors with an air conditioning plant. Over the main entrance to the Secretariat some apt-aphorisms are inscribed. It also contains some beautiful and interesting painting depicting knowledge, peace, war and justice, spirits of the age, music and dancing etc in the North Block and the four castes of India and the Coat of Arms of almost of all Indian Provinces etc in the South Block.



General View of Imperial Secretariat, New Delhi



Parliament House by Night, New Delhi.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The Parliment House (Sansad) is a noteworthy structure possibly the third British architectural triumph in India. Its circular edifice nearly half a mile in circumference with a continuous open colonnade and columns of the purest creamy sandstone 27 feet high all round in the verandah is really most picturesque. This is the home of the Indian Legislature. The foundation stone was laid by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught in 1921 and was opened by Lord Irwin on 18th January 1927. The central dome of the building is remarkably great in diameter, 98 feet as compared with that of St. Paul's Cathedral 1C9 feet.

There are three main separate chambers which radiate from the Central Hall of the building; first is House of the People with an accommodation capacity of 400 members, second Council of States with a capacity of 200 members and the third Supreme Court of India which has accommodating capacity of 120 members Each chamber has its own ' pardah ' gallery and committee room Fountains, waterways and gardens separate the chamber from one another The Central hall has a library. Around and about the three chambers are all the appurtenances of a Parliamentary house. It is peculiar to note that humurous names are given to

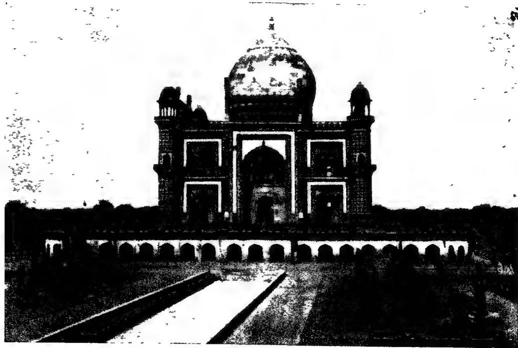
various portions of the Parliament House. It is located about a mile from Connaught Place near Secretariat.

SAFDAR JANG'S TOMB

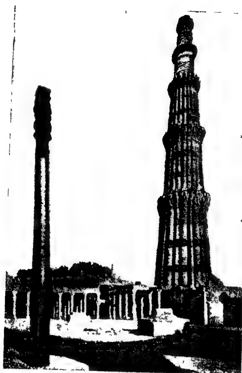
The tomb of Safdar Jang is a palatial sepulchre commanding a large extent of ground laid out in lawns, flower-beds, fountains and an aqueduct.

Safdar Jang was the Prime Minister of the Emperor Ahmad Shah. He played an important part in Delhi politics, rising to the coveted post of Prime-Minister. On his death in 1753, this tomb was built. It is a finely proportioned work and stands out superior to any thing produced in the previous half-century. It is the last *magnificent structure of the Moghuls (according to Sir* Henry Sharp).

The cenotaph occupies the central hall of the building with four square and four octagonal rooms. The roof is 40 feet in height and supports a bulbous dome with marble minarets at each corner The mausoleum stands on a terrace raised 10 feet above the level of the garden The tomb itself is handsomely sculptured and bears an inscription meaning. "However great and pompous a man may be in the presence of his fellowmen, he is small and humble before God". And towards the eastern entrance to the mausoleum there



Safdar Jung's Tomb, Delhi.



Kutab Minar, Delhi.

is an inscription on a marble slab which conveys the meaning, "O God! when that hero of the plain of bravery departed from this transitory world the following date of his departure was written, may he be a resident of the highest paradise, 1167".

Within easy reach of Safdar Jang's Tomb stands the tomb of the celebrated king, Sikandar Lodi. This king is best known to Westerners as the the first monarch who built his capital at Agra. Not very far from here lie the ruins of a mosque belonging to the Pathan period. In the same neighbourhood may be seen the Hauz-khas or bath in a ruinous state and the tomb of Firoz Shah.

The tomb of Safdarjung is situated about 5 miles from Delhi almost midway to the Kutab Minar near Willingdon Aerodrome.

KUTAB MINAR

Kutab Minar is the highest stone tower in the world. It is a world renowned monument and one of the principal architectural wonders of India. It lies nearly 11 miles to the south-west of Delhi and for m les around appears as a landmark above the surrounding country. It stands right in the heart of the site, covered by the citadel's built by Sakars prior to the Christian era, by Anangpal in the 8th century and by the Chauhan pRajut tribe about the 12th century. In fact, the Kutab

Minar otherwise Prithvi Lat was the work of Maharaja Prithvi Raj, the last Hindu Emperor of India, and was built according to the desire of his loving wife to see the Jumna river daily from its height. The titles of Sultans and verses from the Koran inscribed in the Great Tower were done later on. Therefore, the actual origin of the tower is a much discussed subject. Howevr, Kutab-ud-Din commenced refashioning it in 1200 A. D. In his time. the Kutab mosque was separate building and the Minar did not possess more than the lowest or the first storey It was completed later on by Shams-ud-Din Altamash (1210-36). A century later, the fourth and fifth storeys were rebuilt by Firoz Shah Tughlak (1351-88).

The monument takes the form of a graceful tower, 2B8 feet in height and rises from a base diameter of 47 feet to one of 9 feet at summit which is wonderful testimony to the skill of the ancient engineers of the East. The Minar consists of five storeys separated by balconies composed of richly carved projecting pendentives in a characteristic style. The first storey attains a height of 94 feet 11 inches, the second 50 feet 8½ inches, third 40 feet 3½ inches; fourth 25 feet 4 inches, and fifth 22 feet 4 inches There was also a cupola 12 **feet 10 inches in height on the top of the fifth storey; it was thrown down by an earthquake shock in 1803,**

replaced by Major Smith in 1829 and later on was finally removed by the order of Governor General of India and now a simple railing girds the top.

The first three storeys are built of red sandstone richly decorated with carved scrolls and the remaining ones are of marble and red sandstone blended with their wonderful colouring. Each storey contains numerous inscriptions. The basement of the tower bears twenty-four facets in the form of convex flutings alternately semi-circular and rectangular and the plinth is two feet in height There is a spiral staircase in the tower, numbering over 300 steps which leads to the summit and the view obtained therefrom is magnificent. The excellence and curious beauty of the design truly represent the architectural glory of India.

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE KUTAB MINAR

Every storey of the grand tower bears inscriptions which either relate to the greatness of the Almighty, the glory of the conqueror or the repairer. On the basement storey above the entrance gate, the inscription on translation means :—

'The prophet, on whom be God's blessing and peace, said, 'He who builds a mosque for God, God will build for him a similar house in paradise'."

"This minar during the reign of Sikandar Shah was injured and was restored as well as its upper storeys were repaired in 1503"

The lowest band on the basement storey :—

"The Amir, the commander of the army, the glorious, the great :—

The second band :

"... . master of the kings of Arabia and Persia, . : ..the shepherd of the servants, the defender of the countries of God ....the proclaimer of the word of God which is the highest, and the second Alexandra Abdul Muzaffar Mohammad Ibn Sam, may God perpetuate his kingdom and rule .... '.

The third, fifth and sixth bands bear Quranic Texts and the fourth band has inscriptions similar to that on the second band.

On the doorway of the second storey :—

"The completion of this building was commanded by Altamash............".

On the third storey on one side of the door :—

"This building was completed under the superintendence of the slave, Md. Amir Koh."

On the fourth storey :—

"The erection of it was ordered during the reign of Alt amash."

On the fifth storey above the door :—

" This edifice was built by Firoz Sultan "

There are also two inscriptions in Nagri which relate to the time of Firoz Shah (1368 A. D,)

It is strange to note that the actual name of Kutb-ud-Din, the so-called builder of the grand Tower does not appear to be visible anywhere in the inscriptions on the Kutab Minar. It is presumed by some that the titles as written on the lowest band at the basement storey refer to Kutb-ud-Din.

PLACES AROUND KUTAB MINAR

Kutab Mosque—This is immediately underneath the Kutab Minar, historically it is the earliest Mohammedan House of prayer ever built in India. From an architectural point of view, the mosque is of great interest, on the western side, it consists of three large and eight small arches having a range extending nearly 400 feet. The faces are covered with stone lacework of amazing delicacy and intricate design.

Five rows of sculptured columns support the roof and the hall 135 feet in length supported by a series of

pillars is regarded as having constituted the Liwan or Shrine Pillared cloisters enclose the quadrangle to eastward.

The building was originally a Hindu temple (Vishnu Mandir) and was turned into a mosque just after Delhi was wrested from Prithvi Raj. In evidence of the fact Lt. Col. H. A Newell *(Three Days at Delhi p. 45)* writes. "The walls are Pathan but the richly wrought pillars are the spoils of Hindu, Jain and Buddhist shrines found in its vicinity. As such, Fergusson attributes them to the ninth or tenth century A D." According to Cunningham, *some of these pillars may still be seen in the mosque* proper and he further remarks, "To conceal Hindu decorations, every part of the mosque was plastered and purposely ornamented with flowers and texts from the *Koran* and designs of various sorts. Time has, however, destroyed the plaster and the Hindu work is once more exposed to view" It is evident that the transformation was begun by Kutb-ud-Din about 1193. Later on, Altamash enlarged the mosque and brought the Kutab-Minar within its limits.

Tomb of Altamash. At the north west corner of the mosque is the magnificent tomb of Altamash built by his daughter, the celebrated Empress Raziyyah; the tomb is the oldest known to exist in India. Its delicate carving of a very rich quality is its characteristic feature.

Lal Kot. It was a Hindu stronghold built by Anangpal, the Rajput chief in the eleventh century (1066). It had 2½ miles circumference enclosed by walls with three gate-ways 17 feet wide and protected by perticullis and the ramparts were 60 feet high and 30 feet thick. Everything has become a mass of ruins except the west-ward walls, built on a rock which are in a good state of preservation and today these alone represent Lal Kot. The Iron Pillar and the Vishnu Temple otherwise Kutab mosque are the principal relics of Lal Kot.

Yogmaya Temple It is situated about 200 yards from the Iron Pillar, Tradition has placed it on the very spot of the temple built by Maharaja Yudhistar (about 3000 B. C), but the present temple was erected in 1827 by Lala Sed Mal. The worship of the goddess is very sacred among the Hindus It will suffice to describe this temple in brief in the words of Mr. Keene, "In a marble floored and flat roofed room 17 feet square, entered through a doorway with a marble frame is tenderly kept a black sacred stone, concealed in tinsel and cloth, in a marble veil, 2 feet wide and one feet deep".

Qila Rai Pithora. This was another stronghold of Maharaja Prithvi Raj built after Lal Kot when the Muslim raids became a menace to the latter. It was made and was greatly strengthened in comparison to Lal Kot. According to Sayyed Ahmad Khan, it was

erected in 1143 but Cunningham has stated its construction to be as late as 1180 or 1186. Its position lies to the west of the Kutab Minar.

Alai Darwaza. Ala-ud-Din Khilji was famous for his great architectural activity. His finest achievement was Alai-Darwaza (the Great Gate) not very for from Kutab Minar. This portal illustrates the first Pathan period at its very best. It is held to be built in 1310 A. D. and is regarded by many authorities to be the most beautiful gate-way in existence The gate-way is square in plan measuring 35½ feet inside and 36½ feet externally, the walls are 11 feet thick and the height, from the floor to the ceiling, is 47 feet. The lofty door and a wealth of decorative carving enhance the general effect. Ala-ud-din's Tomb lies a little distance away from the gate-way in the south wall of the enclosure behind the mosque.

Ala-ud-Din's Minar. About two furlongs north of Kutab Minar stands the unfinished tower begun by Ala-ud-din Khilji. Commenced in 1311, it was intended to be twice the size and height of the Kutab Minar but it never reached a height of more than 87 feet as the builder's death followed in 1316.

Ghori's Durgah. To the west of Kutab Minar lies the Mausoleum of Sultan Ghori, son of Altamash in the small village of Malikpur. It is chiefly composed of

marble and the structure may be regarded as a good example of the best Pathan period.

Adam Khan's Tomb. About half a mile to the south-west of Kutab Minar stands the imposing mausoleum popularly known as Durgah of Adam Khan. The building is large and spacious—and is used now as a rest house by officers of the Delhi district. Adam Khan was a noted General in the Moghul army of the Great Akbar. After his death, Akbar erected this handsome tomb to his memory.

Not very far from here are two immense wells or *Baolies* of considerable depth and unusual proportion Tiers of stone corridors surround the enclosure on three sides and the approach to the water is down innumerable flights of stone steps. Here, the visitors might be entertained by the feats of men and boys diving from a dizzy height into the inky depths for a gift of a rupee or two.

THE IRON PILLAR

The celebrated Iron Pillar is one of the most curious monuments of India and stands in the courtyard of the Kutab mosque with an imposing background consisting of a screen of arches. It is 32 feet and 8 inches high. The shaft is of solid iron with its diameter 16·4 inches near the level of the ground and 12·4 inches

at the top. It terminates in a knob in the ground at a depth of 3 feet where it is firmly fixed by eight strong bars attached to stone blocks. The pillar is very smooth and bears Sanskrit inscriptions.

The original one on translation means :—

" He, on whose arm fame, was inscribed by the several, when in battle in the Vanga Countries, he kneaded and turned back with his breast the enemies who, uniting together, came against him — he, by whom, having crossed in warfare the seven mouths of the river Indus, Sindhu, the Vahlikas were conquered —he, by the breezes of whose prowess the southern ocean is even still perfumed,—He, the remnant of the great zeal of whose energy, which utterly destroyed his enemies, like the remnant of the great glowing heat of a burned out fire in a great forest even now leaves not the earth, though he, the king, as if wearied, has quitted this earth and has gone to the other world, moving in bodily form to the land of paradise won by the merit of his actions, but remaining on this earth by the memory of his fame,—By whom, the kings,—who attained sole supreme sovereignty in the world, acquired by his own arm and enjoyed for a long time, and who having the name of Chandra carried a beauty of countenance like the beauty of the full moon,—having in faith fixed his mind upon the God (Vishnu), this lofty standard of the divine Vishnu was set upon hill called Vishnupad "

The remarks of Mr. Henry Sharp, however, will be interesting, "It is only fair to the Hindus to remember that wonderful as is the towering minar above, the iron pillar is even more astonishing." Mr. Newell remarks, "It is a forged bar of pure, unrusting iron nearly 24 feet

high and said to weigh six tons, gracefully moulded at the top, and so strong that a cannon fired at it (it is said by Ghulam Kadir) did it little injury. The Hindus were able to do this piece of forging some centuries ago". The site around the pillar is called Chausat Khamba.

As a matter of fact, its position, original and present is a much discussed subject and rather a mystery. I am quoting a few remarks made by some authorities. Cunningham writes (Nov. 1863), "Many large works of metal were no doubt made in ancient times such for instance as the celebrated colossus of Rhodes and the gigantic Statues of the Buddhists, which are described by Huen Tsang But all of them were of brass and copper, all of them were hollow and all of them were built of pieces welded together, whereas the Delhi Pillar is a solid shaft of mixed metal" Lt Col H A. Newall remarks, "Not only it is very strange to find so mighty a bar of iron forged at so early a period, it almost savours of magic to discover, that although the column has been exposed to the storms of seventeen hundred years, not a particle of dust corrodes its smooth surface. The inscription is as sharply defined and as legible as on the day it was first cut".

According to Sayyed Ahmad Khan, the pillar was constructed by Raja Madhava in 895 B. C., according to Mr. Princep's translation of the six lines inscription in

Sanskrit, it was built by Raja Dhava who reigned over Delhi in the third or fourth century A D. But according to Bhan Daji, a great Sanskrit authority who considered Mr. Princep's translation as wrong, it was built by Maharaja Chandra in honour of Vishnu God and was styled Vishnu Lat. Maharaja Chandra is regarded by Cunningham, Bhan Daji, Thomas and other Sanskrit scholars to reign in India about the middle of the fifth century. However, it is probable that the pillar was built by Maharaja Chandra who has been identified as one of the Mewar line of kings.

The pillar was formerly styled as Vishnu Lat but different schools of thought have called it otherwise. It was called pillar of Raja Dhava by Mr Princep and Lt.-Col H. A. Newell, Pandava Pillar by the Wheeler and so on. But today it is said that this pillar was originally fixed at Indraprasth, the ancient capital of the Hindus and was removed and set up in the centre of Vishnu Mandir (now Kutab Mosque) by the Rajput Chief Anangpal Tomar, as an ornamentation in his new citadel about the middle of the 8th century A. D. Tradition says, "as he loosened the pillar, his empire did not remain permanent. And his action is today remembered in the following **Nagri** proverb :

Keeli To Dheeli Bhaee
Tomar Bhaya Mat Heen

TUGHLAKABAD

Tughlakabad was a massive stronghold built by Ghias-ud-Din Tughlak on a rocky eminence in 1323, A. D. It was so strong that ranges of towers and bastions rendered the stronghold practically impregnable to attack by any military method practised in the fourteenth century The fort had 13 gate ways, tanks and a remarkable well, 80 feet deep in the solid rocks The defences consisted of walls rising above the rock to a height of 40 feet, a seven feet parapet and then another 15 feet of wall. The walls were thick and solid in structure Jama Masjid and Burj Mandir were two of the most important buildings of Tughlakabad of which remains are now only traceable. It is to be noted here, that the construction of such a colossal building being completed in two years and the name itself, "Burj Mandir' indicate that probably Tughlakabad was another modification of some pre-existing Hindu building. Tughlakabad is located about 12 miles to the south of Delhi

Tughlakabad is said to be cursed by the Saint Nizam-ud-Din and the curse ran as follows—

> "May it be inhabited by Gujar, or
> May it be desolate."

Strange to relate it is desolate and actually the home of a number of small colonies of Gujars (goat-

herds) At the south-east corner of Tughlakabad lies the small fort of Adilabad built by Mohammad Tughlak.

GHIAS-UD-DIN'S TOMB

To the south of the fort of Tughlakabad and connected with it by means of a stone causeway 600 feet long carried by 27 arches is the Tomb of Ghiyas-ud Din Tughlak. The mausoleum is a massive edifice of stone ornamented with marble and stands in an artificial lake surrounded by battlements in the shape of a pentagon. In fact, the whole building appears to be a fortress rather than a tomb. It was begun by the Tughlak himself but was not completed until the year following his death. The tomb contains three graves, those of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlak, his queen and his son.

KALKAJI TEMPLE

About 8 miles to the south of Delhi near the Okhla Railway Station lies Kalkaji Temple. It is dedicated to the goddess " Kali ". This place is very sacred to the Hindus of Delhi. The idol is placed in the centre of the building and is enclosed on three sides by a red sandstone and marble railing. The oldest part of it was erected in 1764 but according to tradition it stands on the same grounds of a temple built as early as 5,000 years. Here, every Tuesday a fair is held. While returning from this place, visitors may pass the Okhla headworks of the Agra Canal.

NIZAM-UD-DIN'S SHRINE

It is the tomb of Nizam-ud-Din, renowned saint, situated 5 miles from Delhi in a small village of the same name It is regarded by Muslims as one of the most sacred places of pilgrimage in India. The cemetry is worth mentioning as it contains characteristic examples of marble masonry representing the continuous efforts of six centuries

In the central court is Nizam-ud-Din's tomb ; screens of pierced white marble safeguard his sacrophagus and a white marble verandah runs round the exterior. The mausoleum was erected by Mohmmad Tughlak [1324-51]. Followers of the saint tell wonderful stories of the cures wrought by a visit to the shrine, of prayers miraculously answered and boons conferred Critics recount him to be a member of a dangerous secret society with headquarters at Khorasan It is asserted that a feud arose between Nizam-ud-Din and the Emperor Ghias-ud-Din Tughlak while the former was busy in excavating his tank and the latter in the construction of a stronghold ; and in revenge Nizam-ud-Din conspired with his son for his death over a curious pavilion.

Impinging upon the western wall of the shrine is the Khizri mosque—a sombre edifice erected by Firoz Tughlak in 1353. Near the mosque is the grave of the

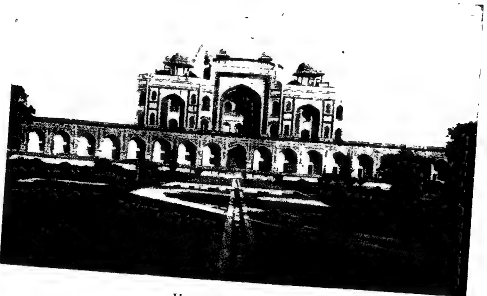
beautiful daughter of Shahjahan, Jahan-ara Begum. The narrow marble slab on the grave bears an instructive inscription composed by herself just before her death in 1681.

To the east lies Mohammad Shah during whose reign Delhi was sacked by Nadir Shah in 1739. A gate-way to the south leads to the tomb of Khusru, the first Urdu poet. Near the Chabutra-yarain in the tomb court-yard is the grave of Mirza Jehangir which is exquisitely carved in a design of flowers and leaves and is surrounded by a beautiful marble screen. Here also, is the tomb of Azam Khan who saved Humayun's life in battle.

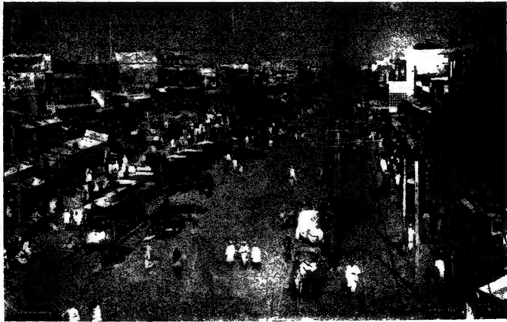
HUMAYUN'S TOMB

The tomb of Humayun stands about 4½ miles from Delhi in the midst of a large garden and screened by high walls with superb gateways to the south and west. The mausoleum of Humayun occupies the central position in the large chamber under the dome and is built of polished white marble raised on a terraced platform inlaid with black stars The roof of the chamber 80 feet in height, is surmouned by a magnificent while marble dome with a copper gilt spike, higher than the basement terrace by 140 feet and its floors and walls are of white marble. Access to it is obtained by flights of four steps.

From an architectural point of view the tomb is said to possess the earliest example of the Moghul school.



Humayun's Tomb, Delhi



Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

Its towers which appear for the first time at the four angles of the main building and its narrow necked dome are the notable innovations. Sir Henry Sharp aptly remarks, "For size and impressive grandeur, no other tomb built at Delhi and indeed few in India, can compare with it."

The site for the mausoleum was chosen by the Emperor Humayun himself and it was built at a cost of 15 lakhs of rupees on his death by his widow, Hamida Begum in 1556 Other cenotaphs in this fine building include those of Haji Begum ; the Emperor Furrukhsiyar ; Alamgir II ; Prince Dara Shikoh and others.

The central chamber opens into a number of small dimly lighted apartments and it was in one of them—the nearest on the right—that Bahadur Shah, the last Moghul King yielded up his sword to the British after the capture of Delhi from the sepoy mutineers in 1857. His life was spared but his sons and nephews were summarily executed by Major Hodson with his own hands within sight of of the tomb. It will interest our readers to know Lt. Col H. A. Newell's remarks, " History records nothing stranger, nor more dramatic than the imperial tragedy enacted within the shadowy tomb on that hot September afternoon. Here, by the gleaming marble sacrophagus of the first hereditary monarch of the house of Taimur, the last monarch of the famous line yielded up the sword, wherewith Humayun had cut his way to Empire.

Opposite to Humayun's Tomb is the mosque and tomb of Isa Khan built by Islam Shah Suri in 1547. This monument is known for its distinctive architecture, the last true example of a Lodi style

PURANA QILA

About a mile off Humanyun's Tomb is the Purana or old fort also known as 'Dinpanah' and 'Indrapat.' This Purana Qila (old fort) stands on the site of the ancient city of Indraprasth, the capital of the Pandavas. It is a little more than a mile in circumference and rectangular in shape. Its walls are massive surmounted by fragile kiosks that appear above them in a couple of places and traces of enamel are still perceptable on the gateways. The interior is now tranformed into a park.

It was built about 1541 by Sher Shah Suri who overcame Humayun The fort is one of the best preserved of the ruins near Delhi. Within its ambit are the conspicuous buildings of 'Sher Mandal' and Sher mosque also known as 'Kila Kana Masjid'

Sher Mosque is built of sharply chiselled red sand stone, relieved with marble, slate and coloured stonework There are small pinnacles at the corners and a bold dome in the centre, the flat roof is crenellated along the sky line and the facade consists of five horse-shoe arches above high, deeply embayed portals and the interior is decorated with brilliantly coloured enamelling.

Indeed, its perfect proportion of outline and simplicity of ornamentation render it a classic example of the artistry of the Indo-Afghan school.

Sher Mandal is a small two-storeyed edifice built of red sand-stone and surmounted by open pavilion. It was here, that Humayun met with an accident. While coming down the staircase of the library he received a mortal wound and died after some months at the age of 47.

LAL DARWAZA Facing the old Fort is the Lal Darwaza or Red Gate of Humayun and Sher Shah. It was from this place that the sixth city of Delhi (known as Purana Kila) extended southward of the site now occupied by Humayun's Tomb. Close by stands Irwin Amphitheatre grounds.

INDRAPRASTHA

Indraprasth was an ancient capital of the Hindus originally built in prehistoric times [about 3000 B. C.] by Maharaja Yudhister of Mahabharat fame. In those distant days, the Jumna river lay a mile to the west of its present course, particularly on the Delhi Mathura Road. Indraprasth is now only a ruin but the old walls are traceable. The ramparts now enclose pasture land. The Purana Kila or old fort is believed to be on the site of Indraprasth which has given the name, 'Indrapat' to the old fort

ASOKA'S PILLAR

This outstanding monument stands in a state of splendid preservation amidst the remnants of Firozabad otherwise Kotla situated about 2 miles to the south of Delhi Fort The Pillar attains a height of 42 feet 7 inches above the ground masonry. The upper and lower diameters of the exposed length are 25 3 and 38 8 inches respectively It is cut out of pale pink sand-stone whose brightly polished surface is covered with Pali and other inscriptions , the Pali inscriptions in the ancient language of the Buddhists are the more ancient. The writing on the pillar repeats the famous fourteen edicts of Emperor Asoka

Originally, this pillar was erected by the King of Magadh, Asoka in 250 B C. As a matter of fact, this pillar is one of the many pillars which were erected by him from Orissa to Kabul. Six pillars, two at Delhi, two at Lauraya, one at Sanchi and one at Allahabad are still in existence The other pillar at Delhi stands over the Ridge.

The pillar at Firozabad was brought to this position by Firoz Shah Tughlak in 1351-58. Sir Henry Sharp, differs with this statement and observes that it was brought from Ambala District and the second over the Ridge from Meerut district and Lt. Col. H. A. Newell remarks this pillar to be brought from Tobra village in

the Khizrabad district about 120 miles from Delhi. However, the pillar was lifted on a specially constructed wagon run on 42 wheels and transported through Jumna river on a boat and set up in Firozabad. Its supposed weight is 27 tons When Finch visited Delhi in 1611 the pillar was surmounted by a glittering globe and gilded crescent (hence known as Golden column) which was injured by lightning In 1715-19, the pillar was thrown down by an explosion of a powder magazine and was set up again by the British in 1867

THE RIDGE

The Ridge is a crest of hills 64 feet in height not more than a mile distant from the city walls of Shahjahanabad. This famous Ridge is a part of the Delhi Hills which is a spur of the Aravali Mountains and has earned the name of 'Ridge' because it nowhere attains a height of more than 915 feet. The Ridge formed of quartzite rock presents a flat rugged surface with scant vegetation limited to occasional pockets of soil The Ridge and its neighbourhood are rich in historical association. The Ridge was the vantage ground from which the British batteries played upon Delhi during the siege of 1857. Firoz Shah built here his summer palace in the fourteenth century. Here stands another Asoka Pillar brought from Meerut and set up by Firoz Shah in his palace. This pillar, too, bore Emperor Asoka's fourteen edicts.

The Ridge is traversed along almost its entire length by a good road which takes the visitor past many historical and interesting sites.

Flagstaff Tower—This is a curious circular structure which formed one of the principal posts on the Ridge of 1857 Near it, lie the imposing Delhi University buildings

Mutiny Memorial—This is a tall Gothic monument and stands at the extreme right of the Ridge, a spot where the besiegers erected a heavy gun battery. The monument bears a marble slab on which the names of those who died during the siege are inscribed From here, a magnificent panoramic view of Delhi can be obtained.

CHANDNI CHOWK

One of the finest streets of India, Chandni Chowk is the principal thoroughfare of Delhi and a busy market. It is nearly three quarters of a mile long and 50 yards broad. It was once a wealthy trade centre. Chandni Chowk, literally meaning silver-market, is still the headquarters of skilful gold and silversmiths and is world renowned for its Indian jewellery.

Chandni Chowk boasts of a thrilling history of its own as it has been the scene of tragic episodes and has

frequently run with blood. A remarkable example is of Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 and his massacre of several thousands of Delhi citizens at this place. In Chandni Chowk stood a high clock tower. Within easy reach of Chandni Chowk are some sights worthy of mention.

Gurudwara.—Stands near the 'Fountain' in Chandni Chowk. It is a sacred place of the Sikhs, an Indian martial race. It is named after the martyr, Guru Tegh Bahadur who was compelled by the Emperor Aurangzeb to embrace Islam and failing to do so he was put to death and his tomb, to-day, stands in the central position of New Delhi near President's House.

Gauri Shankar.—This beautiful temple stands towards the eastern side of Chandni Chowk on the Fort Road. It is one of the most sacred places of worship of the Hindus. The building is mostly composed of white sandstone and marble The statues of the gods—Gauri and Parbati are extremely handsome and most attractive. The canopy of Lord Shiva and Parbati is highly ornamented. In the temple precincts, there are statues of Lakshmi and Narain, Lord Krishna and Radha, and Jumnaji.

Jain Temple.—Stands at the east end of Chandni Chowk, near the Red Fort and was constructed in 1770 by Lala Harsukh Rai Shugan Chand at a cost of about eight lakhs of rupees. Its five oblong domes and the

marble columns which support the richly gilded ceiling are extra-ordinarily beautiful Indeed, it is a striking contrast of Moghul architecture Lt Col H. A. Newell remarks, "Alone in this temple at Delhi was the architect inspired with the happy idea of combining use and ornament by decorating the back of the strut with pierce foliage of unusual delicacy and beauty"

Fatehpuri Mosque.—Stands at the western end of Chandni Chowk (a site named after the mosque) built by Begum Fatehpuri Begum, in the seventeenth century. The building is massive in design and posseses three gateways, the eastern being largest There is a spacious courtyard and a fountain in the centre

KASHMIR GATE

Kashmir Gate is one of the surviving ten gates pierced in the high battlement walls in Delhi of the Muslims It is named after the Kashmir State as it faces it. During ths mutiny of 1857, this place was the scene of one of the fiercest fights

Since the advent of the British in Delhi Kashmir Gate has developed into a fashionable shopping centre, higher educational centre and the seat of the Delhi Courts and Commissioner's Offices. As a matter of fact, its proud position is being snatched by Connaught Place in New Delhi

St James Church. Is prominently situated at Kashmere Gate. It was erected by Col. James Skinner after the Mutiny of 1857, owing to a vow he made, while lying dangerously wounded on the battlefield of Uulyara, that, should he survive he would erect a church Like its founder this sacred edifice has had its share of war's alarms. Col James Skinner also built a Mohammedan mosque and a Hindu Temple thus showing an unique example of religious impartiality His grave lies to the north side of the Church In the Indian army his name is perpetuated by two regiments.

CONNAUGHT PLACE

Connaught Place rather Connaught Circus is the finest landmark of the Imperial Capital and is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful spots in the world so beautifully planned and so well built. This is to commemorate the memory of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught who visited India in 1920 Its site and position have made it the most crowded spot in New Delhi. It has developed into an up-to-date fashionable shopping centre and the seat of prominent social institutions. Though Connaught Circus appears circular, closer observation shows that it is more like a horse-shoe in design.

Right in the centre of the circus stands a fine Bandstand surrounded by a fine ring of pretty lawns.

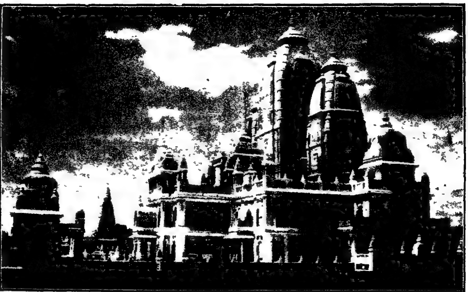
The Central Asian Antiquities Museum is located on Queensway, New Delhi

LAKSHMI NARAIN TEMPLE

This temple is one of the unique temples of modern time and the finest of its type in India. This is a grand specimen of the best of the old Aryan religion as conceived and adjusted to modernism It is a standing symbol and embodiment of the spirit of Hindu Culture. Here is exhibited all the different cultures of Hinduism in one neat and magnificent structure. Rarely art and religion is so combined. This is a place of purity and happiness The building is matchless and grand. Its magnificence is remarkable

There are three main structures in the temple premises, one in the centre called *mandap* raised on the platform, second to the right, Gita Bhawan and third to the left, Buddha Temple The central temple is the grandest of all and here are enthroned three dieties—Lakshmi Narain in the middle, Shiva to the right and Durga to the left. On the walls and upper gallery, there are numerous fine paintings and epitome of all the great teachings of Hinduism. You will be delighted to see them all.

In Gita Bhawan. Lord Krishna is enthroned. The statue is very grand and attractive. To the left of the



Lakshmi Narain Temple



Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi



Sunehri Masjid, Near Fort, Delhi

mandap (central structure) is the Buddha temple. Here, too, are wall paintings which are excellent. The statue of Buddha is grand and attractive

This Lakshmi Narian temple is built by the philanthropic Raja Baldeo Das Birla in 1938. The foundation stone was laid by Maharana Udai Bhan Singh of Dholpur on 26th March, 1933. The installation ceremony was performed by the famous Pandit Visheo Nath Acharya from Hindu University assisted by honoured pandits from various places in India. The opening ceremony was performed by Mahatma Gandhi on the 18th March, 1939. Along with Lakshmi Narain temple, Buddha temple was also erected the same year.

Here all Hindus (i. e all branches of Shri Sanatan Dharam including Arya, Budh. Jain, Sikh) may participate in the daily worship, Satsang and Kirtan in consonance with the conventions of the temple in mutual, harmony and good will. This is open to all Hindus (including Harijans subject to the prescribed conditions of cleanliness, full faith and sincere devotions) The foreign tourists can also visit the temple subject to the prescribed conditions of purity.

OLD SECRETARIAT

This is one of the most pleasing buildings in Delhi on Alipore Road. Constructed in 1912, it was formerly the Secretariat of the Government of India (now in New

Delhi). It remained under the occupation of the Government of India for 14 years and now houses several Govt. offices.

MAHATMA'S SAMADHI

The Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, a National Shrine, stands in an enclosure amidst a fenced garden at Rajghat between Old and New Delhi His remains were cremeted here on January 31, 1948 Here prayers are held on October 2 (his birthday), January 30 (his death anniversary) and on every Friday evening

OTHER HISTORICAL PLACES

Durbar Amphitheatre—About a mile further north of Metcalfe House is the Durbar Amphitheatre which was built in 1911 in honour of the visit of Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary It was here that the announcement of the restoration of Delhi as the capital of India was made

Kalan Masjid—This is a curious old mosque practically hidden in the southern part of Delhi, near the Turkoman Gate It was built by Firoz Shah Tughlak in 1387. His citadel, Firozabad extended up to this mosque. In style, it is massive and lacks decoration. There are rows of stone pillars which divide the mosque into fifteen squares, all roofed by domes, the central one being the largest and highest.

Sunehri Masjid.—Opposite the Delhi Gate of the fort or near Edward Park, stands the Sunehri Masjid otherwise called the Golden Mosque built by Ahmad Shah about the eighteenth century. Its domes, towers and interior ceilings were heavily covered with gold which was later stripped by the several invaders of Delhi. To-day, traces of gold can be seen on the summits of the minarets and the interior ceilings There is another mosque of this very name standing adjacent to the Police Station opposite the 'Fountain' in the Chandni Chowk. This is a small but beautiful mosque and its domes and minarets, laden with an enormous quantity of gold, are its special feature It is worthy of mention that this was the place where Nadir Shah, the Persian invader, stood with sword in hand and massacred several thousand Delhi citizens

Rajghat.—About a furlong from the Delhi Gate of the fort or the golden mosque is Rajghat, an ancient site believed to be of Maharaja Yudhistar's time In those distant days, the Jumna river flowed in this locality. To-day a gate and a temple only exist.

Salimgarh.—Not very far from the Fort on its western side is situated Salimgarh also called Nurgarh, It was an old fortification protected by bastions and walls three quarters of a mile in circuit. It was erected by Salim Shah, son of Sher Shah Suri, the conqueror of Humayun in 1546. Later, Jehangir connected this

stronghold with the Moghul Citadel (Red fort) by means of a bridge in 1621. It had served as a State Prison. The river water had greatly washed away much of its buildings but now the remnants are carefully protected. Today, it is a military station.

Nilichhatri.—Some distance from Salimgarh in a northerly direction, and, following Bela Road stands a beautiful temple devoted to Lord Shiva. This is stated by Cunningham to have been built by the Marathas during their short occupation of Delhi. The temple is worth a visit as its domes are composed of multicoloured stones.

Nigambodh.—A little distance away from Nilichhatri lies Nigambodh ghat, literally meaning a place of knowledge Tradition says, that Maharaja Yudhisthir made his horse sacrifice and Brahmma acquired his divine knowledge of the Vedas at this place. Today, Nigambodh ghat is the place where Hindus are cremated.

TOMB OF SHAH ALAM

Two and a half miles from Kashmere Gate at Wazirabad stands the tomb of Shah Alam, the successor to Alamgir (1759). He had a pitiable career. He was dethroned by Ghazi-ud-Din. He returned to Delhi after 17 years and was later tortured and blinded by the Rohillas. The sightless Emperor was taken under British

protection after the victory of Lord Lake in 1803. And when he died three years later, this tomb was built.

PROMINENT GARDENS OF DELHI

Nicholson's—This is a well-kept small garden just outside the Kashmere Gate In it stands the statue of General John Nicholson, He headed the successful assaults on the Kashmere Gate bastion during the Mutiny of 1857 and here received a mortal wound

Qudsia's—This is an old garden built by Qudsia Begum in 1748 and lies about a quarter mile north of the Kashmere Gate. Qudsia Begum was the wife of Emperor Mohammad Shah and the mother of the ill-fated Ahmad Shah from whose reign dates the final decline of the Moghul Empire.

Roshanara's—This was originally laid out by Roshanara Begum, the second daughter of Shahjahan and favourite sister of Aurangzeb. She had a special taste for politics and it was due to her that Aurangzeb secured the throne Later on, she remained the sole mistress of the imperial seraglio at Aurangzeb's Court. During Aurangzeb's illness in 1664, she carried on an intrigue for her own selfish ends On his recovery she disappeared and is said was poisoned. Her tomb stands to-day in this garden

Queen's—This is opposite to the main railway station of Delhi. It is very spacious and extends over a length of three quarters of a mile from Fatehpuri Mosque to the Fountain. At one side of it is Chandni Chowk. At present the Municipal offices and Hardinge Library are in the garden premises.

This garden was the site of the famous *serais* erected by Jahanara Begum, the eldest and favourite daughter of Shahjahan. Contemporary writers have described the building to be the most beautiful of its kind in India. The walls were decorated with paintings and the grounds were laid out with ornamental tanks and fountains. The place was specially reserved for distinguished visitors to the capital and wealthy traders from Persia.

CHAPTER V

THE EIGHT DELHIS

DELHI is a remarkable city as it has been rebuilt since the 11th century no less than seven times—each time on a new site with the result that altogether it stretches over a distance of about 12 miles mainly to the south. Tradition has placed Delhi on the site of Indraprasth, the ancient city of the Hindus, sung of in the *Mahabharat* as founded by Yudhistir otherwise Pandavas. Though nothing remains of it, yet the name is preserved in Indrapat, known as Purana Kila, a stronghold of Humayun and Sher Shah. Since the Delhi of Prithvi Raj successive conquerors of India made their home in the Imperial Capital at Delhi establishing it each time on a new site but always in the neighbourhood of Indraprasth.

It has been built six times by the Muslims until the advent of the British making the eighth Delhi. Each

time it has been called with a new name but its old name, Delhi otherwise "Dilli" has always survived to this day. Six older cities of Delhi are now a mass of ruins scattered over the plain The seventh city is modern Delhi and the eighth New Delhi. All the eight cities are described here in brief

OLD DELHI

It was the first city of Delhi particularly of the 12th century when Maharaja Prithvi Raj was the last Hindu Emperor of India. This city may also be styled Hindu Delhi. In 1192, Mohammad Ghori defeated Prithvi Raj and Ghori's successor, Kutb-ud-din refashioned the city and styled it ' Kutab" This name did not servive long. The only remnants of old Delhi are Kutab-Minar and Kutab-Mosque

SIRI

It was the second city of Delhi built by Sultan Ala-ud-din Khilji in 1303. This was an extension of old Delhi in the north-east at a distance of 3 miles off old Delhi due to the need of the growing population. In distant days, Siri was a circular city with its lofty buildings enclosed by strong fortifications of stone and brick. Siri is now a mass of ruins and portions of the massive walls constructed as a protection against Moghul raids are all that remain. To-day, Siri is known as Shahpur.

TUGLAKABAD

It was the third city of Delhi built by Ghias-ud-din Tughlak in 1321. This was constructed to the east of Kutab at a distance of four miles. To-day, the founder's tomb and ruins of his buildings represent the City. (See Chap. IV)

JAHAN PANAH (CHIRAGH DELHI)

This was the fourth city of Delhi and was built by Mohammad Shah, the second king of the Tughlak line in 1327. It stood between Kutab and Siri and was founded with a view to join the two with massive walls, 5 miles in circumference, to afford protection to the inhabitants—hence the name Jahanpanah or world asylum. It had 13 gates, six on the north and seven on the south Vijia Mandal, Begumpur Mosque, Roshan Chiragh Dilli are the principal monuments which represent Jahanpanah.

FIROZABAD

This was the fifth city of Delhi and was built by Firoz Shah, the third King of the Tughlak dynasty about 1354. It was constructed some eight miles north of Kutab and south-east of modern Delhi. Numerous tombs and other ruins scattered over the country-side denote how extensive it was. The Asoka Pillar is its most notable feature but Kalan Masjid (Great mosque) and Kali Masjid (Black mosque) just inside of the walls of Modern Delhi are no less interesting. To-day Firozabad is known as Kotla.

PURANA QILA

This was the sixth Delhi and was built by Humayun and Sher Shah, commenced by the former in 1533 and completed by the latter during 1540-45. It lies about two miles south of Delhi. (See Chapter IV.)

SHAHJAHANABAD

This was the seventh city of Delhi and was the work of the master builder, the Emperor Shahjahan in the years between 1638-58, who styled it after himself This city still survives as the thickly populated town of Delhi—rather Modern Delhi with its splendid structures and vivid history. It stands on an eminence on the right bank of the Jumna river and is enclosed by high battlement walls measuring five miles and a half in circuit The walls built of red sandstone have practically disappeared except towards the Kashmere Gate, Ajmere Gate and a few other parts. Formerly the walls were pierced by the famous gates known as Calcutta Gate to the north-east, close to the fort and leading to the main railway station; Kashmere Gate and Mori Gate to the north; Kabul Gate and Lahori Gate to the west facing Sadar Bazar; Farash-khana Gate and Ajmere Gate to the south west; Turkoman Gate and Delhi Gate to south and the Rajghat Gate to the east facing the river. The capital was in the centre of the citadel with two stately portals still known as the Lahori and Delhi Gate of the fort. The gates with the exception of a few, *e g*, Kashmere Gate, Turkoman Gate, etc. have disappeared but their names still denote their sites. The chief objects of interest are the fort and the Jama Masjid.

NEW DELHI

This is the eighth city of Delhi built by the British at Raisina. (See Chap. II).

General Information

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1. Programme of visiting sights in Delhi is given below Delhi is conveniently seen in three days but can be seen in a short period while making excursion of your own. Also you have to make a little change in the following itinerary according to the place where you have put up

FIRST DAY Lakshmi Narain Temple (Birla Mandir) **1st Stop.** Pass Connaught Place Jantar Mantar, **2nd Stop.** Pass All India Radio Station, Parliament House, Secretariat & President's House (Near Musuem). **3rd Stop.** Safdarjang's Tomb—**4th Stop.** Notice sities of Siri and Jahan Panah (Old Delhis) on the way to Kutab, Kutab Minar—**5th Stop.** Here lunch can be had at the Rest House Ghiasuddin's Tomb—**6th Stop.** Tuglakabad —**7th Stop.** Nizamuddin's Shrine—**8th Stop**

SECOND DAY Jain Temple—**1st Stop.** Jama Masjid—**2nd Stop.** Fort—**3rd Stop.** Return to hotel for lunch St. James Church—**4th Stop.** Nicholson Park—**5th Stop** Pass on Alipore Road, Qudsia Garden, Metcalfe House, Old Secretariat, drive via Circuit House Road, visit Flagstaff Tower **6th Stop** Pass Delhi University, Mutiny Memorial,

Return via Subzi Mandi and visit Roshanara Garden and Queen's Garden

THIRD DAY Humayun's Tomb—**1st Stop.** Purana Qila—**2nd Stop.** Ashok Pillar (Firozabad)—**3rd Stop.** Samadh of Mahatma Gandhi—**4th Stop** Return to hotel for lunch. Do shopping or visit any other thing in the after noon.

2. **Red Fort**—Opens in winter (16th Oct. to 15th April) 10 a. m to 1 p. m and 3 p. m, in summer (16th April to 15th Oct) 8 a m. to 11 a m and 4 p m. to retreat throughout in year Entrance by ticket, adult -/2/- children -/1/-. Museum of Archeology and Indian War Memorial Museum in the fort closes 15 minutes before the fort closes

3 Museum of Asian Antiquities, Queensway, New Delhi remains closed on Holi, Independence Day, Iduz-Zuha, Dasehra, Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, & Diwali

4. National Museum of India (President's House), New Delhi remains closed on Mondays, and as on in No 3

5. **Permits** Foreign Tourists desiring to visit President's House and sessions of the Parliament may obtain passes on applying to the Tourist Information office, 88, Queensway, New Delhi

6. **Enquires** · Please contact "The Regional Tourist Officer, 88, Queensway, New Delhi.

7. **Hotels :** Imperial, Queensway, New Delhi ; Ambassador, Sujjan Singh Park, New Delhi ; Marina, Connaught Circus, Air Lines, New Delhi ; Maiden's, Cecil & Swiss, Civil Lines, Delhi.

8. Hotels on Indian Style . Agra Hotel, Darya Gunj, Coronation, Fatehpuri , Royal & Minerva, Nahar Saadat Khan, Hotel India, Connaught Place.

9 **Hostels** : Y. M C. A , Jaisingh Road, New Delhi ; Y W.C.A , Constantia, Asoka Road, New Delhi , Constitution House, Curzon Road, Western Court, Queensway, New Delhi.

10 **Clubs** · Chemsford Club, Raisina Road, Defence Service Club, Irwin Stadium , Delhi Gymkhana Club, Safdarjang Road, Delhi , Golf Club, Welleseley Road , National Sports Club, National Stadium, Roshanara Club, Roshanara Road , Y. M C. A , Jai Singh Road , Y. W. C. A., 48, Queensway

11. **Travel Agencies :** Thos. Cook & Son Ltd. Queensway, New Delhi , American Express, Hotel Imperial Mercury Travels Ltd., Hotel Imperial, Orient Express Co. Ltd , Marina Hotel ; International Carriers Ltd,, Connaught Circus , Govan Agencies Ltd., Scindia House, New Delhi.

12. **Air Lines**. B. O. A. C Connaught Circus, Pan American World Airways, Imperial Hotel, Air India International, Connaught Place; Air India, Connaught Place; Deccan Airways, Connaught Circus; Bharat Airways, Queensway, Indian National Airways, Queensway, K.L.M., Queensway, T. W. A New Delhi, Air Services of India, Queensway, New Delhi

13. **Addresses of the Embassies etc in New Delhi**.

Afghanistan	*24, Ratendone Road,*	*Tel No*	*8161*
Argentina	Imperial Hotel,	,,	46453
Australia	Queensway & Con Place	,,	40041,40042
Austria	Theatre, Communications Bldg, Connaught Place		8495
Belgium			8137
Brazil	8 Aurangzeb Road,	,,	8452
Burma	Curzon Road,	,,	43092
Canada	4, Aurangzeb Road,	,,	40191
Ceylon	Scindia House	,,	41715
China	Lytton Road,	,,	42960,41341
Chile	Imperial Hotel,	,,	43741
Czechoslovakia	25, Aurangzeb Road,	,,	45006,44385
Denmark	1, Humayun Road,	,,	40943
Egypt	Swiss Hotel, Delhi	,,	5979,5810
Ethiopia	29, Prithvi Raj Rd	,,	8662
Finland	Humayan Rd	,,	45380
France	2, Aurangzeb Rd	,,	45131
Germany	Maiden's Hotel, Delhi	,,	5994/36
Holy See	8, Alipur Rd	,,	6767
Hungary	10/11 Pusa Rd	,,	45135
Indonesia	Curzon Rd		45028

Iran :	1A, Haily Lane,	Tel No.	40482
Iraq	21, Prithviraj Rd	,,	40088
Italy	17, York Rd	,,	7513
Japan	4A, Haily Rd	,,	45970
Mexico	Hotel Imperial	,,	7111
Nepal	Barakhamba Rd	,,	7568
Netherlands	4, Ratendone Rd	,,	45971
Norway	Maiden's Hotel, Delhi	,,	6170
Pakistan	Sher Shah Rd	,,	7041
Philippines	Maiden's Hotel,	,,	5994, 50
Portugal	Harding Avenue	,,	44721
Sweden	Theatre Communications		40830
Switzerland	Bldg, C Circus		7727
Syria	Maiden's Hotel, Delhi	,,	6789
Thailand	1, Southend Lane	,,	7309
Turkey .	Maiden's Hotel, Delhi	,,	6610
United	6, Albuquerque Rd	,,	40151
Kingdom	Mansingh Rd	,,	44211
U S A.	Bahawalpur House	,,	43041-3
	Sikandra Rd	,,	43165-6
U S S R	Curzon Rd	,,	8471
	Travancore House	,,	8030
Yugoslavia	Hotel Ambassador	,,	45192

14 General (i) Foreigners Registration Office, 12, Rajpur Road, Delhi

(ii) Tourist Information Office, 88, Queensway, New Delhi.

(iii) The National Physical Laboratory, The Indian Standards Institute, The National Institute of Sciences of India on Mathura Road near Hardinge Bridge, The Central Road Research Institution Delhi, Mathura Road and The Pusa Agricultural Institute are the leading Scientific Institutions in New Delhi

15 Taxi & Tonga There are numerous stands You can ask your Hotel who will arrange in no time

15. IMPORTANT PLACES & BUS ROUTES NOS.

Red Fort	4, 5, 9, 11, 16, 17 18, 19, 20, 23, 28, 29
Delhi University	4, 15, 26
Jama Masjid Rajghat	4, 5, 9, 17, 18 19, 21, 28, 29, 30
Pusa Institute	7, 17, 22
Birla Mandir	4, 6 7, 10, 24, 27
Jantar Mantar	5, 9
All India Radio	5, 9, 14
Central Secretariat Parliament House Rashtrapati Bhawan	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 27, 30
Irwin Hospital	1, 5, 9 17, 18, 21, 28, 29
India Gate	6, 12, 19, 22, 24, 29
Old Fort	18, 29
Chandni Chowk (Fountain)	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30.
Willingdon Aerodrome Safdar Jang	14, 17, 27, 28, 30
Qutab Minar Hauz Khas	17.
Old Secretariats, Civil Lines	1, 5, 9, 15, 21, 26
Okhla	18, 24
Nizam-ud Din	18, 24, 29A
Railway Station	10, 17, 18, 27, 29, 30
Lajpat Nagar	29.
Malviya Nagar	30
Cantonment	3